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June 2008

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There is a well-known rule that Whatever Happens in Vegas Stays in Vegas, but this is that one exception to the rule...

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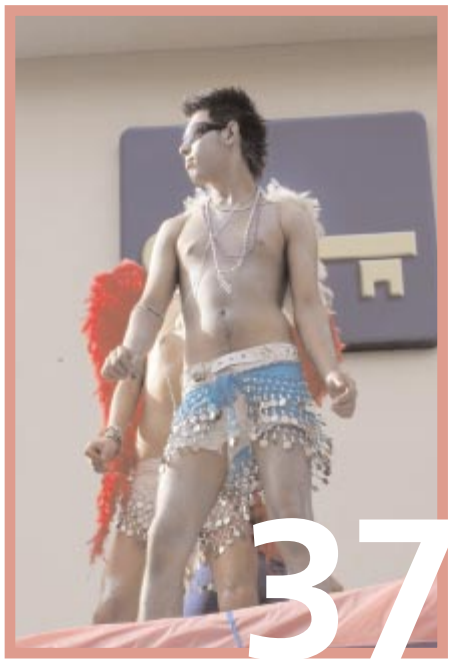

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With actions that are very clearly discriminatory, the mayor and council of Guadalajara Mexico are attempting to squeeze out gay businesses from the Historic District.

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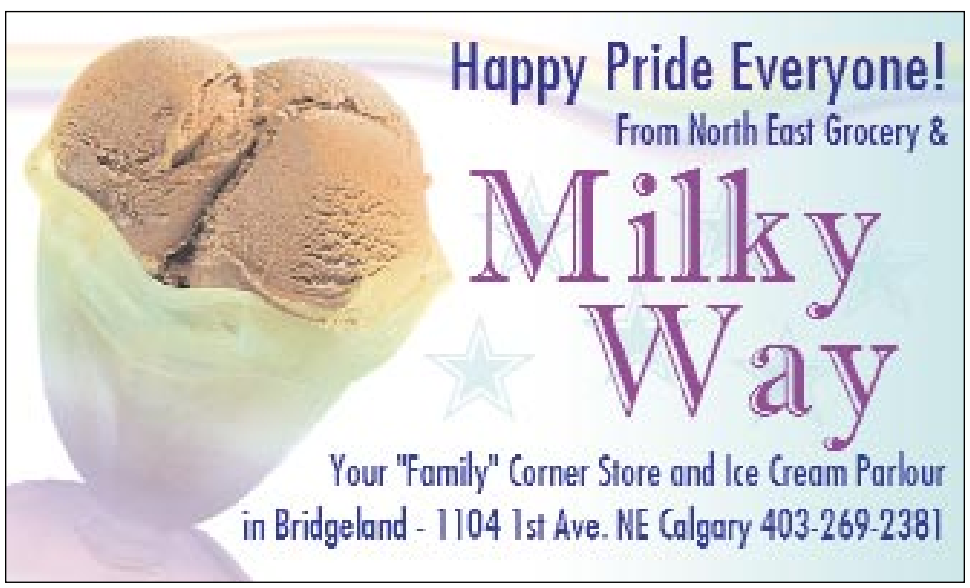
Crossover film. What does that phrase mean? Well, in the world of independent producers of GLBT cinema it is quickly becoming a new catch phrase, the Holy Grail of having a movie with a gay storyline cross the proverbial Berlin Wall into the hearts of straight audiences.



Turning The Other Cheek

By John Coulbourn

With the recent court decision in California clearing the way for same-sex marriages in that state (however temporarily), one doesn't have to be a biblical prophet to predict the tsunami of Christian outrage that's about to sweep over America as fundamentalist zealots do their level best to ensure that, when it comes to rights, there will be no room in the inn for Joseph and Marty, when they show up for their honeymoon.

And while it all promises to be most unpleasant for our brethren south of the 49th, those of us here in Canada have heard at least it all before.

Having seen legalized same sex marriage years ago (and, by the by, if the sky is indeed falling, it seems to be taking its own sweet time about it), Canadian gays have had years to get used to the fact that when it comes to Christian ideals, the Christian community often falls more than a little short.

In fact, while the forces of righteousness gear up for the California battle, I've been struggling to find a community that could be held up as a positive role model for those seeking to live their lives by the tenets of the Christian faith—and finally, it hit me.

If the Christian community wants to be more Christian, they could do worse than look to the gay community for inspiration—and I'm talking well beyond the very obvious stuff like gays loving their neighbours as themselves and doing unto others as we would have done unto ourselves. Of course, it's stuff we're good at, but hey, in the workaday world, it's not all about the sex all the time.

When it comes to turning the other cheek, for instance, the gay community has had plenty of experience, most of it thanks to religious fundamentalists who claim to love the sinner but hate the sin, but appear nonetheless pretty determined to do everything humanly possible to make the sinner's life here on earth the closest possible thing to the hell the Christian right is so sure awaits us in the after-life.

But while there are plenty of cases of gays being asked to leave churches, I can't think of a single instance where a Christian has been asked to leave the gay community—and no, this isn't a discussion about gay activists disrupting church services or the Christian right picketing funerals of AIDS victims. What we're talking about here are gay and lesbian men and women being shown the church door and asked to pull it shut behind them when they leave after doing everything, save denying their innate sexuality, to fit into a church. Try as I might, I can't think of any Christian being shunned by the gay community for living by the tenets of his religion while striving to be a good gay or lesbian.

A recent decision by the Ontario Human Right Commission underscores all of this, Seems that after five years of employment with an organization called Christian Horizons, a religious agency that operates 180 residential care facilities serving 1,400 developmentally delayed clients, one Connie Heintz was fired when she "came to terms with her sexual orientation as a lesbian," an act that apparently contravened a morality statement she had been forced to sign as a condition of employment.

Thankfully, the OHRC ruled in Heintz's favour and awarded her lost wages and damages, in addition to ruling that asking employees to sign such morality statement was no longer acceptable.

Now, imagine just for a moment, the furor that might be generated if an organization serving the gay community were to, first of all, require all employees to sign a statement eschewing the Christian faith, and then, were to fire a long-time employee for having 'suffered' a religious epiphany. Rest assured, if it had ever happened, we'd still be hearing about it.

Another major plank in the Christian life, if memory serves, is the whole business of judgment—as in judge not, lest ye be, and casting the first stone. While no one could ever deny the gossip rampant in the gay and lesbian community, it must be stated that we are a pretty inclusive lot when all is said and done, as any Pride parade anywhere across this country will show. And as our rights have evolved, we've become even more inclusive, it seems to me, welcoming vocal proponents of gay marriage as well as those who swear it will be the end of gay civilization as we know it. Hey, it's a big tent. Meanwhile, Anglicans can't even get along with themselves, the Lutherans are getting all worked up about ordaining gay priests and the Pope seems to want to drop kick everybody back to 1492.

And while we're on the subject of the Christian community's struggles with the whole business of ordaining gay clergy, it should be pointed out that the gay community has welcomed gay clergy since the beginning of time—and all things considered, that says a lot more about our powers to forgive than most of the good burghers you'll see spouting off against gay clergy on the six o'clock news.

So, as you head out to celebrate Pride this month, step a little higher. We're role models now—and with a little bit of patience, we can lead these Christians back to the fold.

TIME FLIES WHEN YOU'RE HAVING FUN—which accounts, in some small part, for the fact that it doesn't seem all that long ago that my old friend Roy Heale called me in a state of happy intoxication to announce that he was starting a gay paper and that furthermore, I was going to write for it. I remember thinking at the time that it was a particular ambition he'd lose when he sobered up.

Well, eleven years later and counting, my dear old friend has finally sobered up enough to realize that he wants to go off and enjoy some new experiences after what has been an incredible roller coaster ride as charter publisher of this fine publication.

So this year, as Pride comes upon us, I've got even more blessings to count. I'm so very proud of my old friend and what he's done, but I'm also proud that I could play a small part in his dream. As they say in Buenos Aires, Roy, Vaya con Dios! ▼

John Coulbourn is a native Albertan who lived for many years in Calgary. He now makes his home in Toronto, where he covers performing arts for the Toronto Sun.

A Fond Farewell

By Roy Heale

Words have been a major part of my life for the past eleven years as the founder and publisher of *Outlooks*, and now I find myself in the position of having to find the right words to say goodbye.

Recently, as I was cleaning out my office, I found the original business plan for *Outlooks*, written in October 1996. It was quite remarkable to see how the past eleven plus years have unfolded—much the way we dreamed in those very early days. To dream a dream, be given the opportunity to make that dream come true and then pass the legacy on to a new dreamer has to be one of the greatest joys and satisfactions in my life.

Although just a few months ago the future of *Outlooks* was uncertain beyond my retirement on June 1, I am pleased to announce that now there is a new owner and publisher—Brett Taylor. Taylor hails from Calgary with an advertising and public relations background quite similar to my own.

Much has changed during these past years of *Outlooks*' existence and the magazine has grown and matured along with our GLBT community. Now it will move into a new phase with a new owner and, I am sure, some new ideas.

Reflecting upon these past years at the helm, I am rewarded by the hundreds of gays and lesbians that have participated in our history. Whether a writer, photographer, editor, proofreader, graphics designer, model, staff member, trade supplier, advertiser or you—one of our valued readers—each of you has made a significant contribution to our longevity. For this I thank everyone from the bottom of my heart. I hope all concerned will continue to provide the same phenomenal support to the new torchbearer in his endeavors to continue with *Outlooks*' significant role in Canada's GLBT community.

Personally, this has proved to be a very rewarding time in my life, as I have watched and participated in the numerous positive changes for Canada's GLBT community. There have been so many advances in equality for the GLBT community during these past eleven years. Of course, the most significant achievement being the federal same-sex marriage act of Canada. However, there is still more to gain in total acceptance of the gay lifestyle and I hope *Outlooks* will continue to play a role in this important evolution.

It is rewarding to see how young people today are able to experience a new-found level of acceptance from their early years of sexual awakening and that it is now O.K. to be gay. This has reached a level of equality that was only ever dreamed of when I was a teenager. Back then, marriage for same-sex couples was on the other side of the mountain. We, as Canadians, have reached a level of acceptance that is still only a dream in many other parts of the world.

For several years I have been privileged to travel the globe and write articles for *Outlooks*, which has afforded me a unique perspective on how gays and lesbians perceive our life in Canada. That experience makes me very proud to be a gay Canadian. In many ways we are the envy of GLBT citizens around the world—something we must never take for granted. We live in a tolerant country and I hope *Outlooks* will continue to showcase our vibrant gay community in a positive light for many years to come.

So now I head off to an adventure in South America for what I consider to be the fourth act in my personal three-act play. There is no script, no designed set and no cast of characters, but I am looking forward to enjoying my future as it unfolds without any pre-planned agenda.

In my new life I will treasure these years of publishing *Outlooks* and all of the associated memories. I will continue to contribute travel stories to *Outlooks* and I hope these journeys will be a major part of my future semi-retirement and provide me the opportunity to share with you some of my new adventures.

To each and every one of you I offer a sincere thank you for making this dream come true and I wish the new owner and publisher, Brett Taylor, every success—as I happily and confidently pass the torch into his capable hands. ▼

Thank you,

Roy

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By Ralph Higgins

As anyone who has ever visited the East Coast can attest, we love a party. Whether it is an impromptu ceilidh in a Cape Breton kitchen or a full-fledged street parade, we grab any chance to make a joyful noise with friends and to welcome newcomers. The last few years have seen queer Atlantic Canadians creating more Pride activities than ever before. In fact, Pride is spreading like wild flowers here, blooming from early summer right through to the fall.

Here are some of the places the GLBT crowd will be raising a rainbow ruckus.

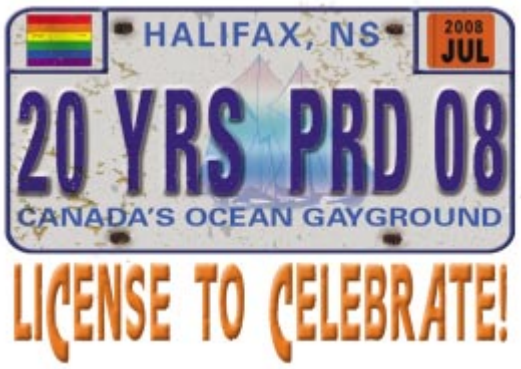
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND - Pride Week on the Gentle Island will take place July 4-12. The theme is Diamonds Are Forever marking the tenth anniversary of Pride on P.E.I. Activities begin with a blast on July 4 with a Kick Off Dance Party in Charlottetown, followed by a dance in Summerside the following night. The succeeding days will include the raising of the rainbow flag, a ball game, coffee house, women's night and drag show, leading up to the Pride Parade on July 12. After a rally and beer garden, the celebrations will be topped off with the Power Party. Organizers proclaim that with "state of the art lighting, super charged sound system and the hottest music hitting the airwaves" this will be the "hottest Pride Power party east of Montréal." **arcofpei.com**

NEWFOUNDLAND - Gay Pride has been celebrated in St. John's since the mid 90's with very strong support from Mayor Andy Wells and city council. Events normally take place toward the end of July, but as of this writing, volunteers are still scrambling to get the celebrations finalized. The people of this gay friendly capital city guarantee a grand time for everyone attending and this year, as every year, Pride will be rocking on The Rock! **stjohnspride.net**

NEW BRUNSWICK – Moncton's ninth annual "River of Pride" will take place between September 6 and 14 with the theme this year of Hands Across The Community. The White Party on Saturday, September 6 will start off the week-long celebrations, followed by Family Day on Sunday and the raising of the flag at City Hall on Monday. Well-known bar, Triangles, will host many of the events including bingo, karaoke night, Back to School student dance on Thursday, September 11 and La Nuit En Rose on Friday. The Parade on Saturday will begin at Riverfront Park followed by a rally. The Pride Ball/ Bal de Fierté will top off the activities Saturday evening. **fiertemonctonpride.ca**

NOVA SCOTIA – This has been a rather tumultuous year for Pride in Nova Scotia. While, on the whole, a blossoming of Pride has taken place, sometimes the seeds of change have fallen on stony ground. Several councils—Pictou and Cumberland counties, along with the towns of Truro and Antigonish—have passed resolutions disallowing any but municipal, provincial, federal and First Nations flags to be flown i.e. no rainbow flag! This has not stopped Pride activities from happening in these areas but it is disappointing to have this kind of homophobic response when more and more East coast GLBT folk are returning to their hometowns seeking acceptance and welcome. The anonymity of a large city is no longer viewed as the only option for queer men and women who want to openly celebrate their lives. These isolated pockets of resistance have gained notoriety when more often Pride groups encounter warm friendliness. The town of Amherst, for example, will hold its first ever Pride celebrations this year and in Halifax, where Pride is big business, Hugo Dann and Raymond Taavel, of that city's Pride committee, have been working with Destination Halifax to promote Halifax internationally to GLBT travellers. **rainbowhalifax.com**

The mayor and municipality of Cape Breton have been staunchly supportive of their queer citizens and this year will be no exception. Between August 9 and 16, Queer Capers and their friends will celebrate Pride with their renowned friendliness and unique style. This year's theme is Everyday People. **pridecapebreton.com**



Even though Nova Scotia now has more pride events throughout the province, the big celebration, and indeed the fourth largest in Canada, is in the capital, Halifax, where this year we will celebrate twenty years of Pride!!! The theme, appropriately, is 20 Years Proud: 08 Licence to Celebrate.

The first Pride march in 1988 was comprised of seventy-five brave souls. Now, twenty years later, active participants will number over 7,000 with up to 20,000 friends, family and supporters to cheer them on. Many of the favourite events are back again. Dykes vs. Divas—always a huge crowd pleaser—Reading Out Loud at the Halifax Library, free Time Out lecture series, queer film nights, drag shows and an interfaith prayer service are just some of the activities happening between July 20 and 27. In addition, all week there will be plenty of music and dancing, dancing, dancing! What started as a courageous move by a handful of defiant men and women two decades ago has now become a major citywide festival. Times have certainly changed.

With a nod to the port city's queer past, the Homo Hopper Harbour Cruise will provide a shipboard history and herstory lesson hosted, according to organizers, by "one of our wittiest Queens". As another souvenir of Halifax's GLBT's history, the Pride committee is hoping to restage the play, The Night They Raided Truxx. Co-chair, Hugo Dann, was part of the original production and regards his participation as part of his own coming out process.

Of course, *the* event is the parade on Saturday, July 26. This riotous explosion of colour and music is both a thrilling tribute to how far we've come and a reminder that the struggle is not over. The website invites us to look for "special tributes to the many GLBT heroes who have brought us so far along the Pride Highway over the last twenty years." The end of the parade marks the beginning of the Rainbow Community Fair & Fete where thousands will congregate to enjoy the Beer garden, Rainbow Community Village Fair with vendors, booths, entertainment and the free outdoor concert. A family picnic will take place on Sunday, the final day, and, in the evening Comedy Night at the Delta Halifax. **halifaxpride.com**

Pride in Atlantic Canada has a past to be proud of and a very bright future.▼

Ralph Higgins is a writer, columnist and book/movie reviewer living in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia. Photos by Leigh James Brown.

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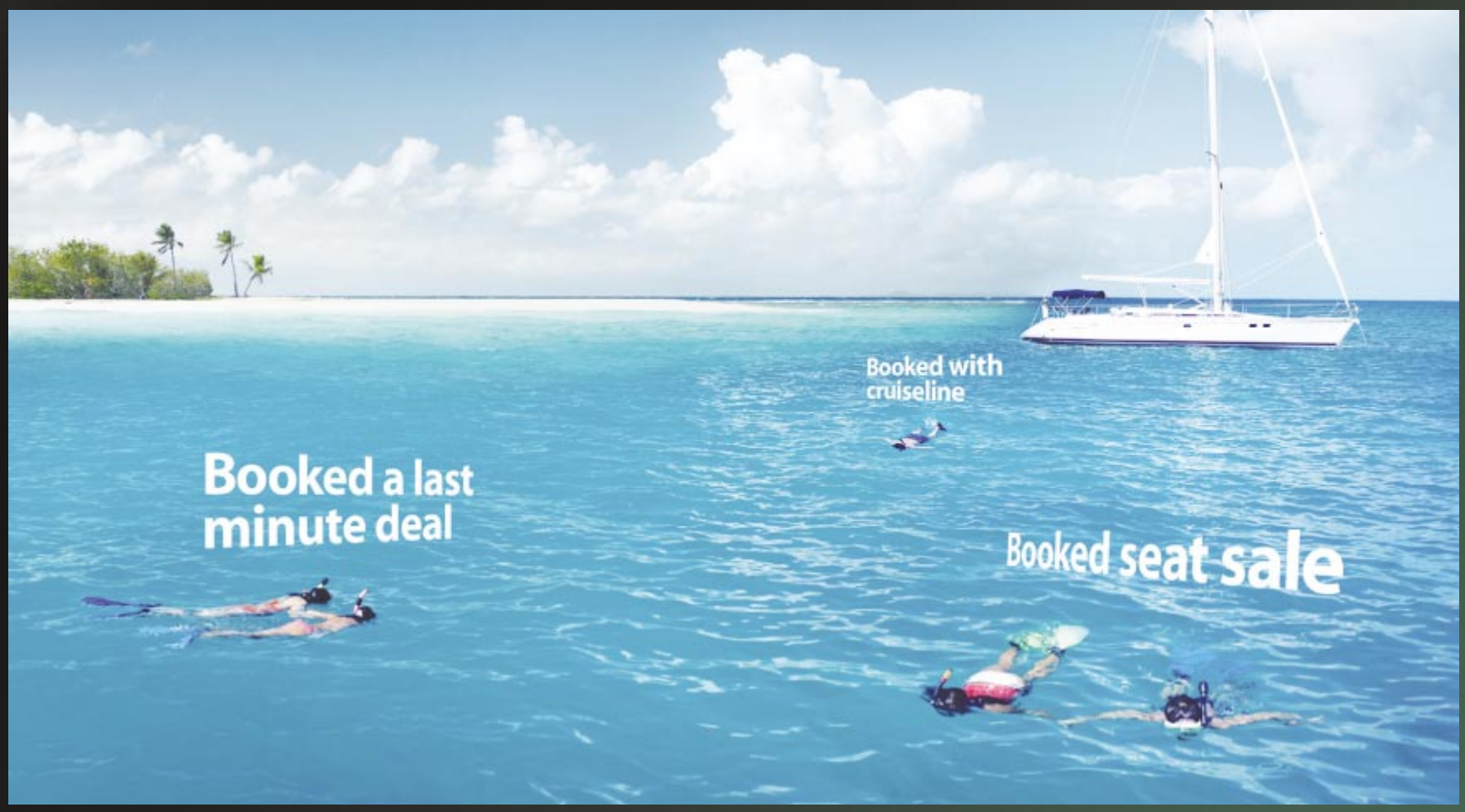

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Pride 2008 MONTRÉAL

Summer In Montréal: Pride Potion #9

By David King

When Divers/Cité dropped Pride events from its activities last summer, it didn't take long for community leaders to take swift enough action to turn 'drama' into a new reality called Célébrations Montréal de la Fierté, held in close proximity to Divers/Cité's dates, albeit on a short weekend—meaning it is no longer as accessible to tourists.

This year, as Divers/Cité's dates remain firmly nestled into the Ontario Civic Holiday weekend, not much will change for Pride dates, except the gap between both major Village events. If you're lucky enough, however, both pack a wallop of activities to keep you coming back for more, and if that's not enough to lure you in, the little island of 'Mun-treal' has recently been worshipped by several North American circuit party magazines as top party destination, with all arrows pointed directly towards its constantly evolving Village clubs, as made evident by guest DJs arriving from around the world.

Divers/Cité kicks up its gigantic heels first at the end of July, and its programming is already one of North America's largest outdoor queer festivals of its kind. Featuring an open-air cinema of queer films, a photo exposition, several indoor events, and the return of traditions like Flexx, Mascara and the tenth anniversary of the Latin celebration Cachondo, this year's D/V should offer more to the Gods than its meager, self-described new image as "a very unique GLBT event".

Once crowds dissipate, it won't be long before they're having hot flashes in rewind for the second edition of Montréal Pride and Community Day, when Célébrations Montréal de la Fierté returns with Community Day and a new "Here Comes the Circus" theme for the August 17 parade. Once again awarding a slew of best float prizes, the parade should attract some pretty wild costumes this year with its circus theme, and in the land of Cirque du Soleil, that's some freak show to mark in your calendar. And if it's anything like last year, Community Day should reflect Fierté Montréal's community roots, as almost one hundred organizations set up shop for a day of visible activity in our queer communities.

As Fierté Montréal continues to fundraise and evolve, so do its charms. In this case, say Montréalers, one event is simply not enough to contain the excitement of a little island. And hey, the more the Mary-er.

Divers/Cité takes place this year July 27 – August 3, Fierté Montréal Pride will be held August 14 -17. To keep your breasts abreast of activities, visit **diverscite.org** and **celebrations-lgbta.org/.** ▼

David King is founding Artistic Director of Montreal's OUT Productions (out.ca), a freelance arts, culture and travel writer, and Contributing Editor of 2B Magazine.

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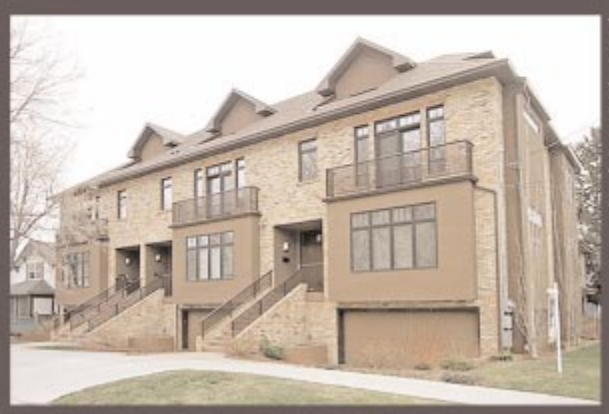

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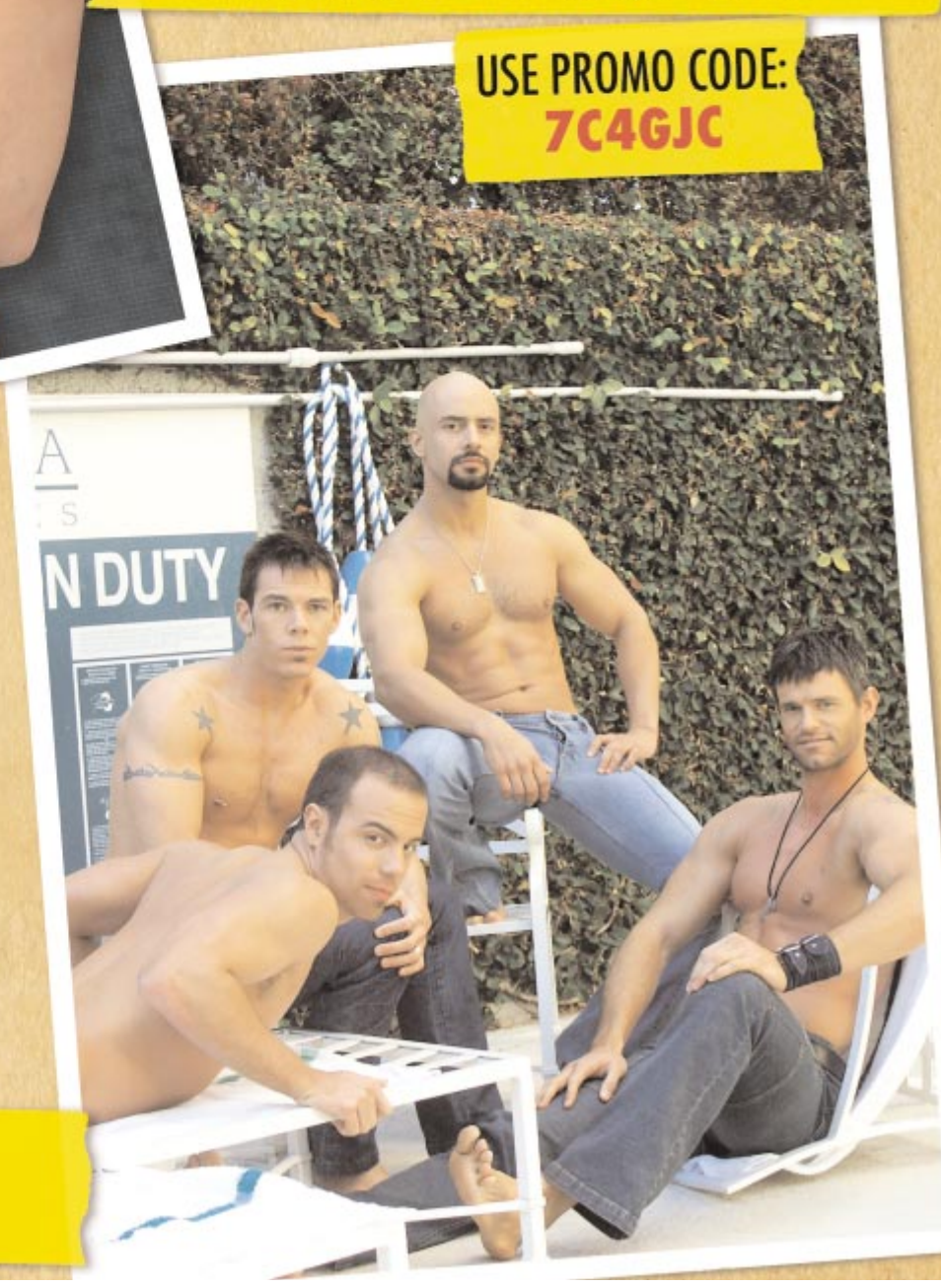

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The Pre-Pride Phenomena of FIMA

By David King

When I last interviewed Paul Haince, the co-founder and president of Montréal's Festival Montréal en arts (FIMA), he was busy bringing a once artisan-heavy, annual street fair in Montréal's gay village to a whole new level. Last year, expanding operations to year-round with only a small staff of volunteers and contract workers, the fledgling, decade-old festival threw its focus into professional guests artists from Montréal and beyond, increasing the scope of its potential on the international festival scene.

"It's not that we have a vision of the grandiose," said Haince last year, "but we are looking to expand our budget with reasonable expectation.... FIMA's grown to a point where it's recognizable and experiencing a prestige success, in the sense that we have so many people who personally love this event. But that doesn't translate to an increase in grants and sponsorships."

Haince made painstaking efforts last year to wake up Québec arts councils to its festival's popularity, along with increased networking at similar Canadian festivals to share resources and ideas for future programming. For this year's ninth edition, says FIMA director Stéphane Mabilais, things continue to evolve—except of course the agonizing, last-minute mystery of waiting to confirm funding support a month before the festival begins.

"There are several changes to different venues we still need to finalize," stresses a cautious Mabilais. "We have been trying to improve conditions each year to create an importance and popularity for this festival. Last year I could see a professionalism happening in the quality of the work. It was exciting, and that tradition continues."

Those who haven't been among the two hundred thousand spectators attending FIMA each year may be surprised to learn that the festival is going inter-disciplinary, with plans for a strong performing arts component by 2009 that Mabilais notes simply wasn't possible this year. What makes FIMA unique is both its queer content and its place as the Gay Village's first major summer event, turning Montréal's village into an open-air street fair that offers artists the opportunity to interact with crowds while they descend upon patio terraces anxiously set up as if Pride has already begun. Often held during the summer's annual Fireworks competition nearby, the Village is, simply put, abuzz with crowds.

As FIMA finalizes this year's international programming from countries such as Mexico, Venezuela, Switzerland and the U.S., it has maintained this year's spotlight on Québec in the form of its official spokesperson: poet, composer, performer, lecturer, sculptor and painter Raôul Duguay. Most noted as part of the 70s Avant-Garde collective 'Infonie' and for his Québec chanson "Bitt à Tibi" (a song now etched in stone in the Canadian Songwriters Hall of Fame), Duguay will not only create the official message for FIMA's visitors and 150 participating artists, but will participate himself as part of his summer-long, nearby exhibit of paintings and sculptures entitled "Birches and Buildings". Renowned for writing the multi-media spectacle AO, La Fantastique Légende, Duguay's recorded about fifteen discs, published about as many collections of poems, has played in several films and has given more than 3,000 shows in Québec and in Europe. More recently known on the lecture circuit, he's definitely worth checking out.

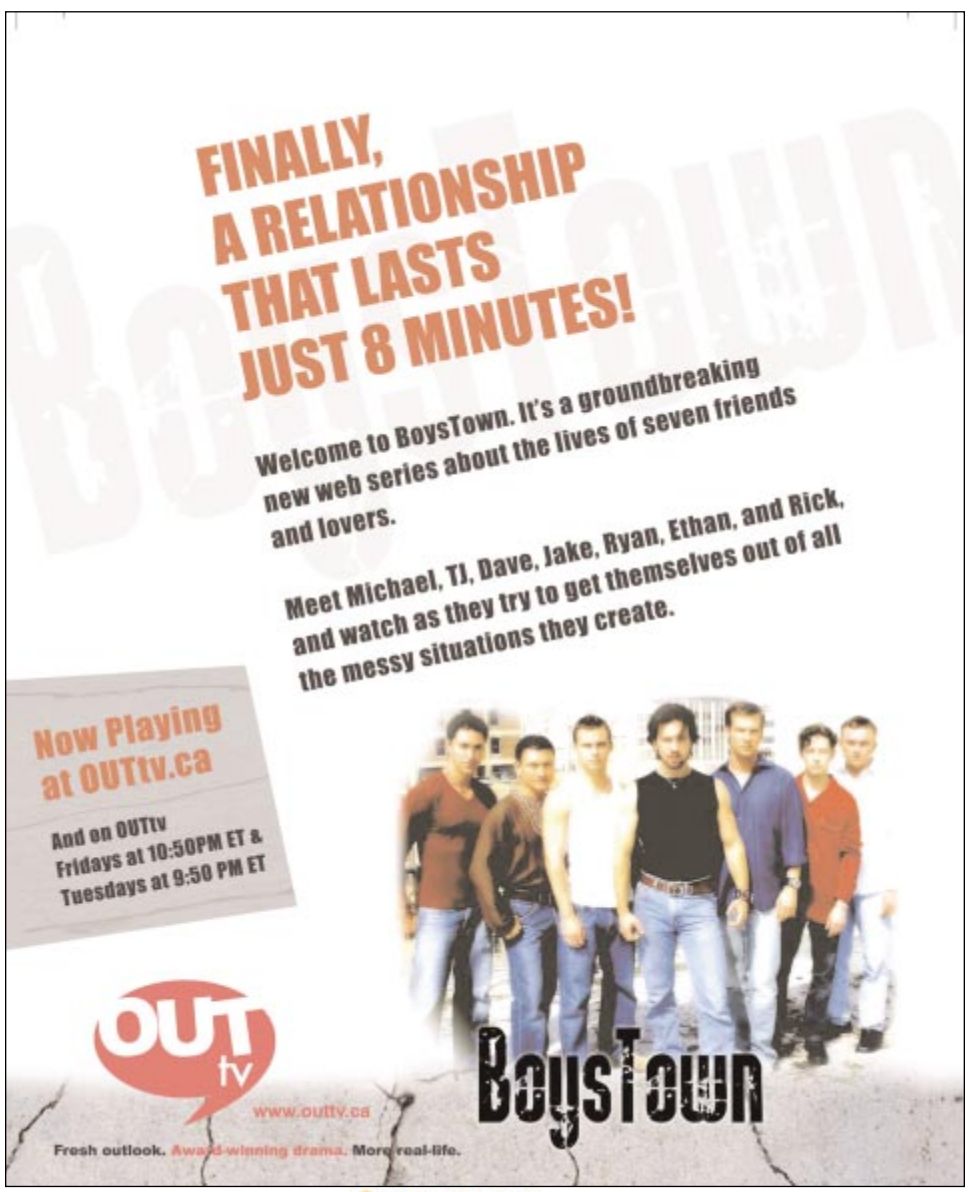
Travelling west of the street performance on rue St. Catherine, FIMA will create indoor expositions of modern/contemporary work this year in locations like Montréal's cross-disciplinary Belgo Building, while offering six selected student artists the opportunity to showcase their work in a tent city of space at the street fair. As he confirms all funding for those students, Mabilais is excited FIMA can continue its tradition of exposing emerging artists' work while bringing in established creators. More unique locals include Victoria Stanton, who'll be encouraging passers-by to feed cake to one another in the interactive encounter "Eat How You Feel".

As FIMA evolves, it all sounds sweet enough to have that cake and eat it too.

"There's always going to be difficulty funding culture," says Mabilais. "In the meantime, we're so proud to offer the public direct contact with these artists".

FIMA takes place July 3 – 6, 2008 in select venues as well as on St. Catherine St. St. East between St. Hubert and Papineau. Info: (514) 522-4646 or info@festivaldesarts.org. Website: **festivaldesarts.org**. ▼

David King is founding Artistic Director of Montréal's OUT Productions (out.ca), a freelance arts, culture and travel writer, and Contributing Editor of 2B Magazine.



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Roy Heale & Brett Taylor

Outlooks Changes Hands

By Michael Wright

Good news for *Outlooks* readers! For all those who were concerned that the paper might disappear with owner/publisher Roy Heale's impending retirement from the magazine, you can relax. The new owner/publisher, Brett Taylor, has officially signed on.

Taylor's extensive background in advertising and marketing parallels that of *Outlooks*' founder, Heale. In addition, Taylor's career experience is about as varied as one can imagine—a fact that should serve him well as the new owner/publisher of *Outlooks*. To wit: he earned his Standard A certification from the University of Regina, qualifying him to become a teacher. Upon realizing that teaching wasn't the path for him, Taylor went to work for a collection agency. One night while out for a drink with a buddy, he spotted an ad to join the Regina Police Dept. Unbeknownst to one another, both friends decided to apply, but neither was aware of the other's intentions until the day they both showed up for training.

It was during his tenure with the Regina PD—so Taylor maintains—that the seeds of his future in marketing and public relations work were planted. After seven years engaged in standard policing, he began work in the Cultural Relations division of the force. This required him to work with minority populations in Regina, where the already affable and congenial Taylor honed his PR skills. Upon leaving the police force, the Government of Saskatchewan benefited from Taylor's PR experience, where he worked through a series of departments, eventually becoming the Director of Communications for Saskatchewan Rural Development. In this context, he found himself working extensively with advertising agencies—and his interest was piqued. He decided to open his own agency, which he and his business partner ran for ten years. During that time, Taylor developed Quest Art—the agency that began and continues to represent one of Canada's leading gay artists, Steve Walker.

In the new millennium, Taylor sold his share of the business, moved to Calgary, and has since been employed in the communications management field with several not-for-profit organizations. His experience on the board of directors for the former *Outlooks Millennium Community Foundation* brought an awareness of Taylor's considerable talents to Roy Heale, creator of the Foundation.

And now, as the new head at *Outlooks* Magazine, Taylor waxes enthusiastically about the future of the publication. "Initially," he says, "readers won't see significant changes in the magazine. I believe strongly that *Outlooks* should maintain a national prospective, featuring stories from the large populations as well as the small ones—from coast to coast. Over the years, *Outlooks* has built a network of writers that spans the country, allowing for a broad focus that is not specific to one city. We don't want to lose that broad perspective, while understanding that we can't be all things to all people all of the time."

Taylor continues, "It's also important that *Outlooks* remains a free publication, accessible to all readers. In order to do this, we will maintain the 50/50 ratio of editorial and advertising content. The more advertising we get, the more editorial content we can afford to put in the magazine. And, while we have an excellent group of editors, photographers, models, graphic artists and writing staff—all of whom do get paid—they work for fees that are far less than they would receive in mainstream media. In fact, it's more of an honorarium, to recognize that the value of their time and talent is far beyond what we can afford to pay them! Their belief in and support of the paper has been a major contributing factor to the success and longevity of the magazine."

"We also intend to maintain—and perhaps expand—the annual readers' survey. It's important to determine the interests and needs of our readers, since *Outlooks* is a vital—and sometimes solo—voice in a variety of communities across the country. The editorial policy has always been to maintain a positive outlook (pun intended). It's easy to be negative, but there's enough negativity in the mainstream national media. While we will not shy away from GLBT issues—or any other issues that effect the quality of our lives—we don't want to spiral down into negative thinking. Readers want to, and should see themselves in a positive light, and we want to promote that perspective. We don't engage in the gossip and rumour mill. We intend to maintain the tradition of editorial excellence in *Outlooks*," assures Taylor.

While retiring owner/publisher Heale is moving to more tropical climes, he will remain connected to *Outlooks* as a writer. "Roy is embarking on further adventures as a travel writer," Taylor tells us. "While not all of his travel writing will have a GLBT focus, he will certainly be contributing his relevant stories on a monthly basis."

"More fun work!" Heale chimes in. "I'm looking forward to having more opportunities to be involved in GLBT tourism world-wide, which will allow me to stay connected to *Outlooks*. And, incidentally, I am thrilled that Brett is taking over the magazine. Initially, when I put the operation up for sale, we had huge response. But some of those who expressed interest were not at all qualified to run a publication like this. Once we narrowed it down to the last three or four interested parties, it became clear that Brett's background and his enthusiasm for the magazine made him the clear choice. I'm leaving *Outlooks* in very good hands, and I'm pleased that Brett understands the hard work of the hundreds of people who have sustained the magazine over the years. I'm also glad to hear that he plans to uphold the positive perspective and professional attitude we've tried consistently to achieve."

Taylor adds, "I'm very excited about the future of *Outlooks*, and look forward to working with this creative team. It's an energizing new beginning." ▼

Michael Wright dabbles in photography, writing and editing. He currently travels from Calgary.

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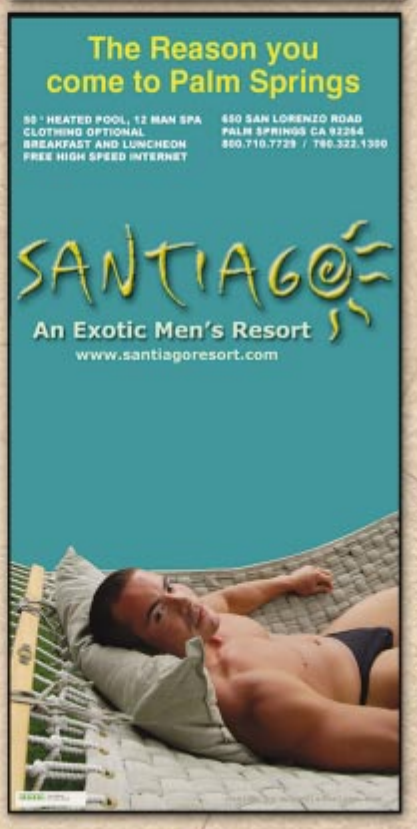

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Pride 2008 OTTAWA

Capital Pride 2008

By Dale Smith

The last major Pride event of the season, Capital Pride runs from August 18 to 24 this year, which is three days shorter than the usual ten-day festivities, owing to the fact that the weekend prior conflicts with the festivities in nearby Montréal. Undaunted, Canada's fourth-largest Pride festival is moving forward, launching a new logo and re-branding themselves with an eye to making themselves known as Ottawa's most colourful festival, and this year's theme is "Live Your Pride."

Something else that Capital Pride is building the festivities around are the eight colours of the original rainbow flag as it was designed by San Francisco artist Gilbert Baker in 1978, and theming individual days around the meanings assigned to those colours. However, with only seven days with which to work, the original colour of hot pink (representing sexuality) won't get its own day, but will have activities incorporating it. (Incidentally, this seven-colour flag was largely dominant from 1978 to 1979).

Pride festivities kick off on Monday, August 18 with the flag raisings, first at Central Police Station (at Isabella and Elgin) at 1 PM, a second raising at City Hall at 4 PM, followed by a Mayor's Reception. This reception takes the place of the traditional Mayor's Town Hall meeting, after organisers felt that nothing new was coming out of the discussions. A third flag raising across the river at Gatineau City Hall is still in the works as of press time.

A Human Rights Vigil is planned for Tuesday, August 19, which organisers are corresponding with the colour orange (denoting healing). This vigil will take place at the Human Rights Monument (Elgin Street near Laurier), where the community will pledge to renew the public fight against discrimination worldwide, especially in the eight countries where GLBT citizens face the death penalty.

Other week's events are still in the planning stages at press time, but so far they include a Youth and Family Day on Wednesday, August 20, a Health and Fitness day as well as a Youth Cabaret presented by Jer's Vision on Thursday, August 21, and a Public Service Pride event at Heaven Nightclub on Friday, August 22.

Several of the partnerships that Capital Pride has fostered with the community at large continue to gain strength, one of the most notable being with Yuk Yuk's, who are continuing their Laugh Out Proud series this year from August 21 to 23. The headliner this year is San Francisco's Marga Gomez, with Vancouver's Darcy Michael and Andrew Johnson from MuchMusic's *Video on Trial* and his new talk show *Bitch Salad*.

One of the most successful partnerships from last year that is being renewed is with the Israeli embassy, who will be presenting a screening of the film *Yossi & Jagger* at the National Library (395 Wellington Street), Friday August 22n(7-9 PM) to be followed by a discussion and a kosher reception.

As well, Capital Pride will be partnering with Washington DC's Capital Pride, and while no events have yet been planned, this partnership is expected to have representation or events in both cities.

Saturday, August 23 is the annual Dyke March, followed by the Women's Stage at City Hall's Festival Plaza. Saturday night will be the Rainbow Party 9, held this year at Heaven Nightclub (400a Dalhousie Street at Rideau), with the theme of Angels and Demons. Running from 9 PM to 2 AM, the planned DJ this year is DJ Isabelle.

Sunday, August 24 is the big day, starting with the twenty-second annual Pride Parade, beginning at 1 PM. Despite some protest from transit officials, the parade route remains the same as the past three years, starting at the Park of the Provinces, travelling down Wellington Street in front of the Supreme Court of Canada building and Parliament Hill before turning down Elgin Street and ending up once again at Festival Plaza outside of City Hall. This route has cemented the symbolism of Capital Pride, where our national institutions are similarly showcased in the context of Pride in Canada, from the Supreme Court granting us our rights, to Parliament which has passed many laws extending rights to the gay and lesbian community, from the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, to the recent legislation of same-sex marriages in this country.

Following the parade, with the usual admission of $5 to enter the grounds, the Capital Pride Day Show runs from 3PM to 11PM at Festival Plaza. Comedienne Kelly Dear will emcee the show this year, and performers will include local band The Habit, Maria Hawkins, Chicago's Cyon Flare, Tammy Rabould, and the Dragon Ritual Drummers. As well, there will once again be the info fair, a vendor fair, a children's area, and the entire site will be licensed so that there won't be any pesky fenced-off areas for beer gardens. With the festival back on its feet and growing every year, Capital Pride is the perfect way to end your pride season.

For more information, visit the Capital Pride website at **prideottawa.com** ▼

Dale Smith is a freelance writer in Ottawa. He is also a regular contributor to Capital Xtra and Ottawa Xpress, and an occasional contributor to the Hill Times.

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Event organizers

Planning an event in Ottawa? Contact Jeremy at jersvision@yahoo.ca and he'll see about covering it in Out & About.

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Pride 2008 TORONTO

Don't Let It Rain On Our Parade

By Doug Ross

The word is out—and hopefully you are too—that Pride Week in Toronto, June 20-29, promises to be a whole lot bigger and a whole lot better than ever before. According to the Toronto Tourism office, this year's street closures will be far more extensive than in the past, indicating this will be one of the best supported Pride events ever. This unique celebration offers the community an opportunity to honour our history, and our future, as well as to express freedom, gratitude and pride for being able to live in harmony with everyone who chooses to support us. YAHOO! So don't just stand there clutching your pearls, come help us celebrate one of our country's premier arts and cultural festivals, featuring ten fun-filled days of outstanding activities and dynamic events that will climax with one of the largest, most spectacular parades on the planet!

The Twenty-Eighth Annual Pride Parade takes place on June 29 at 2 PM, with this year's exciting choice for Grand Marshal being none other than the glamourlicious, Enza "Supermodel" Anderson. Miss Enza will be accompanied by the Friends for Life Bike Rally and Pride Toronto's International Grand Marshal, Gareth Henry, as she dazzles the crowd of sweltering, cheering onlookers.

Okay, for the rare few out there who do not know who Enza is…listen closely! This local legend made a serious bid for the Mayor's office a few years ago, winning a surprisingly substantial number of votes. And since she's not one to shy away from a challenge, she's declared her intention to run again in two years' time. So let's all wish her luck, because as she recently told me, "I care deeply about Toronto. It's a city that embraces diversity. And I want to prove that by taking it to the next level, to be elected the first trans-person on our City Council." You go girl!

"Toronto is experiencing massive growth, and while prosperity is good, unfortunately it comes at a price. There are increases in taxes, but there are decreases in social and city services. So I want to focus on making sure the budgets get spent on programs that will make a positive difference in our resident's quality of life. Nobody should go hungry and everybody should have a roof over their head," says Enza. She gets my vote!

And now for the red carpet question: what will this year's Grand Marshall be wearing, while riding on her parade float? "Hopefully something special from a Canadian designer that will embody glamour, colour and fabulousness, while discreetly putting in place some nips and tucks that don't require surgery!"

But long before the winners of this year's parade awards are declared for: Most Fabulous Float, Most Fabulous Costume, Best Community Float, Best Media Float, Best Embodiment of Pride Spirit, etc. etc…there's still plenty more to shout about.

On June 28 at 2 PM, Dyke March 2008 will hit the streets with their annual grassroots event. This political demonstration revels in the strength, diversity and passion of women and trans-people everywhere.

And the Pride Toronto Youth Committee, whose goal is to increase the visibility, awareness and inclusion of youth within the greater gay community, will once again dedicate their efforts during Pride Week to creating more youth-specific and youth-friendly events for that sector. The highly successful launch of their drug free/alcohol free meeting place, KIDZ ZONE, is an excellent example of one of the initiatives that was generated by this remarkable committee last year. So let's hope that lightning strikes again for them this year.

The Third Annual Queer West Fest is a ten-day, non-profit, alternative festival, June 13- 22, for everybody with a queer perspective—regardless of gender or sexuality. These fabulous folks believe that the key to keeping our community alive and vibrant is to provide a safe, nurturing environment for individuals, groups and organizations. Their goal is to foster individual empowerment, to sponsor relevant activities and to give everyone a better sense of the queer community spirit that's thriving within Toronto's west village neighbourhoods. YAHOO!

Some of their upcoming fest events include: Fur Real: Bears without Boundaries Art Show (exploring themes related to the bear community), Queer West Film Fest (only sixty seats available), Java Knights—Amnesty International Panel Discussion (the many controversies surrounding the Beijing Summer Olympics will definitely get airtime), the Dirty Bingo Fundraiser (proceeds are donated to the Gay West Community Network), Knotty Nights Dance Party (featuring the city's number one queer DJ, Triple-X), Toronto Pride Ride—as well as the promise of a big opening night "surprise" that directly correlates with the infamous Stonewall uprising that took place in 1969 in New York. And no it won't be one of that riot's drag queens or arresting officers!

Another of the fest's events that's sure to please will be the performances of, Forte, the Men's Chamber Choir that consists of two dozen incredibly talented members drawn from within the city. Although Forte isn't exclusively gay in its membership, its repertoire or its outlook, you won't be disappointed while listening to these amazingly gifted voices.

If it's big name celebrities you're craving, then luckily gay icons abound! *Sandra Bernhard Live* will be showcased at Massey Hall on June 22. And since her Toronto fans are legion, you're being warned now to get your tickets early, because I won't tolerate your bitching if you don't! There are also a limited number of special tickets available that'll permit you to attend the after show reception where you'll be able to meet and greet the legend herself.

Another hot ticket will be for *Sporty Spice…Mel C!* When that talented gal was in town performing alongside her spicy sisters, she also managed to headline a sold-out, solo concert that garnered critical raves. So the Pride crew is wise indeed in booking that very popular mini diva for a return engagement.

Homegrown comedic geniuses—and no strangers to drag—The Kids in the Hall, recently reunited to take their uniquely subversive brand of humour out on the road. And that hotly anticipated show, *As Live as We'll Ever Be* is scheduled to hit town on June 5. Personally, I think spending the night amongst their huge cult following while enjoying the flamboyantly funny, Buddy Cole and the cluck-happy Chicken Lady, would be the perfect way for all the early-bird party-types to get a head start on June's fantastic festivities, don't you? Good, we're in agreement.

Now, go ahead and Google your fingers 'til they bleed if you require further information on any of the above or visit **pridetoronto.com**. Otherwise, let's all hope for lots of hot, steamy weather, because that always brings out lots of hot, steamy bodies! ▼

Doug is a busy producer/casting director within the Toronto entertainment industry. He has just been contracted to ghostwrite a book for a locally-based television personality.

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Pride 2008 ONTARIO

By Ben Benedict

It's time to celebrate Pride again in South-Western Ontario in nine different communities—some enjoying growth, while others continue to struggle with the event. The issues these organizations face include homophobia, both internalized and externalized through victimization, and rallying together for support and community development.

In spite of recent social advancements, not a single Pride organizer throughout South-western Ontario—often referred to as the Bible Belt—suggested that enough has been done or that Pride had run its course. In fact, many believe that now is the time to remain vigilant.

Mike Ondrovcik is the founder of Chatham-Kent's Pride celebrations. He's adamant that while bigger centres may be able to boast greater services and that intolerance is waning, smaller centres that dominate the region are still fighting ignorance.

"Homophobia both external and internal still exists, especially here in rural Ontario. In the fall of 2007 we had a very serious open attack against a male couple in the small town of Bothwell. Many gay and lesbian singles and couples in Chatham-Kent are afraid to live their lives out and proud. While the majority of Chatham-Kent citizenry supports the local GBLT community, there is still a small group of ignorant people that look at the community as an abhorrent and immoral lifestyle," Ondrovcik says.

Hazel Wheeler in Guelph points to the rift within the Anglican Church of Canada, noting that Canadians still have a long way to go to be tolerant—let alone accepting. During their Pride events they presented the film For the Bible Tells Me So that addresses "Through the experiences of five very normal, very Christian, very American families how insightful people of faith handle the realization of having a gay child," a dilemma seen within the region on many urban street corners covered with homeless youth.

"As much advancement as there has been recently, the reality is that discrimination is still very prominent towards members of the queer community. Look at what has been going on with the Anglican Church in Canada, which is splintering over issues of same-sex marriage," Wheeler says. "I think living in a city like Guelph, which has a rather strong queer community and a fairly liberal population, it's easy to feel that the world is a safe and welcoming place wherever you go, but that's not really the case. There have no doubt been victories for the queer community, but we still have a long way to go before equality and acceptance is truly reached on the whole."

Jason Patterson of Windsor Pride agrees, "You really have to look at how we came to achieve these social advances. It came through community advocacy and education modeled after the women's and civil rights movements. Those movements have not stopped today, so why should the GLBT movement be any different. Youth are ostracized daily in high schools for being gay, seniors forced back into the closet when joining retirement communities. Pride celebrations are even more important in smaller communities like Windsor where the GLBT community and culture is still emerging."

Vigilance is important in the context of social justice, where Pride celebrations in this region have become celebrations of our diverse family. That was the response from Eugene Dustin of London's Pride committee where "Anything I have seen or heard from past experience is people having a great time, singing, laughing, meeting old friends."

Then there are the opportunities to advance those social causes while supporting our brethren as in Windsor where the "Windsor Pride Community organized the annual festival, but also has 50+ Proud Committee, which plans activities and events for seniors and a research and education committee," says Patterson.

Hamilton, in response to two gay bashings that occurred in the same night last December, has entitled their event Shameless, "whereby we have no shame in walking the streets at night, or being out in any environment; be it work or other," according to Emily Groom. To allow their community to heal and address these pressures, they'll be hosting a Queer Issues Symposium to discuss these and other issues affecting their community in greater detail.

Then there's Tri-Pride in Cambridge-Kitchener-Waterloo that "didn't happen in 2007, and that's what will be most notable on everyone's mind. In 2008, our theme is Growing Stronger Together, a bold theme reinforcing our commitment to rebuild Pride in our community to the benefit of all," Ryan says.

As to why they all do this—volunteer and put their names, faces and reputation out there before a world that looks upon members of the Queer community with suspicion—many stated that [the elimination of] that suspicion is the dominant motivator in our work to ensure that no one else needs to suffer at the hands of ignorance, while [at the same time] connecting and creating not only a community, but a family of choice.

"I volunteer for Pride because I think it's very important to have these events for queer individuals to come out and feel comfortable and happy with who they are. I have the luxury of being part of a social circle that is very open, I'm out at work, my whole family knows, but I know that there are many people who feel they have to stay closeted in many facets of their life," Wheeler says who encourages "anyone, gay or straight, to volunteer for pride if they care about Queer issues. The people are always great, you learn a lot, and it's just feels wonderful to see the events come together and everyone having a great time."

Then there's the opportunity to do something truly inspirational for your community like Ms. Slean did in Peel by creating a Pride organization and events in your community or region.

All communities are looking for volunteers; the more bodies the better and stronger the event and the community involved. There's also a growing understanding that for Pride organizers, there's a need to reach out into the broader community for both financial and ideological support. For example, the Halton Organization for Pride and Education (H.O.P.E.) has received the financial support of the Burlington Community Foundation and the Elementary Teachers Federation.

Pride remains an important component of building diversity within many communities and gay leaders have, in many ways throughout South-western Ontario, lead the way and fought the good fight. The next wave will be helping seniors adjust and finding ways to include new Canadians, but all groups need a few more good men and women to make this happen. So step up and be proud, we're all counting on you.

For more information contact the individual spokesperson or visit online for full event details:

Cambridge-Kitchener-Waterloo: Shelley Secrett and Michael Lisetto-Smith, info@tri-Pride.ca, **tri-Pride.ca**, June 1

Chatham-Kent: Mike Ondrovcik, 519-351-9248, chathamkent-gaypride@hotmail.com or visit them on Facebook at Chatham-Kent Gay Pride Association, Sept. 2 to 6

Guelph: Barb McDowall, 519-767-5697, authenticlives@rogers.com, **guelphpride.outontheshelf.ca**, May 24 to June 1

Halton Region: 905-632-4551, info@haltonpride.org, **haltonpride.org**, June 7

Hamilton: Martin "Joe" Whelan, chair@hamiltonpride.com, 905-528-0207 ext. 245, hamiltonpride.com, June 6 to 15

London: Eugene Dustin, 519-673-8625, pridelondonfestival@hotmail.com, **pride-london.ca**, July 17 to 27

Peel: Sue Slean, sue-linda@rogers.com, 905-846-7176, **prideeventspeel.com**, July 20

Sarnia: **sarniapride.ca**

Windsor: Jason Patterson, 519-564-7565, **windsorpride.com**, July 14 to 20 ▼

Ben Benedict, is a recognized professional visual artist, arts journalist and critic, business writer and public relations consultant with the London region. He is owner and founder of Benedict Creative Communications and can be reached via bcreative.ca

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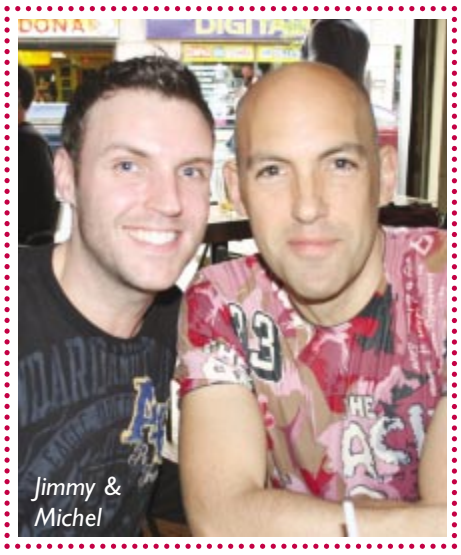
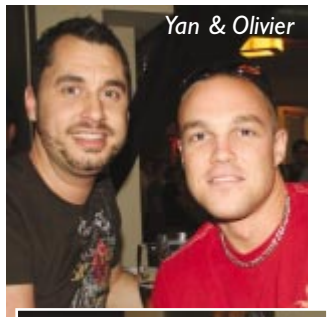

Jimmy & Michel


Yan & Olivier

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René, Collin & Gilbert

Planning an event in Montreal? Contact David at in@out.ca and he'll see about covering it in Out & About. Photos by: Cesar Ochoa

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Pride 2008 WINNIPEG

Featuring Wyrd Sisters, Lady Bunny And R.C.M.P.

By Peter Carlyle-Gordge

It was on Aug. 2, 1987 that some 250 people came out of the closet and held Winnipeg's first Pride Day March through the city. The times were still homophobic, with open disclosure a real threat to jobs, reputations and social acceptance—so much so that a few marchers even wore brown paper bags over their heads.

What a difference a couple of decades has made. Today several thousand people march in the parade, politicians are happy to be seen speaking at the event and it's become something of a family affair, with friends and relatives of GLBT folk happily in attendance and often bringing babies and toddlers along for the festive fun.

This year Pride has expanded over a ten-day period, running from May 30 to June 8, when a huge rally will be held at the Manitoba Legislature followed by a colorful parade of floats and marchers through the downtown area. The theme of Pride this year will be Stronger Together. Pride chair Marie-Line Lacerte says the theme emphasizes that much has been accomplished legally and socially over the past few years and that's due to a united effort which includes not just the GLBT community, but family, friends and all those who have been friendly to the cause.

Lacerte has been on the organizing committee for ten years and has been chair for the past three. She says many changes have taken place. Pride celebrations are spread out over a longer period and many events have now evolved so that local GLBT groups now take ownership of organizing specific events.

The main organizing committee is still responsible for key elements such as setting up the Pride Parade, which needs marshals, guest speakers and a lot of detailed planning. It also looks after the large gathering in Memorial Park once the parade is over. That's on Sunday, June 8 and this year it will be slightly different.

"We're turning it into something along the lines of a Winnipeg block party, so the stage will be more at ground level and we're encouraging people to bring a picnic," says Lacerte. "We're also encouraging more dancing at the site and we want to generate something of a family atmosphere. We'll have clowns and face painting for the children and we'll turn the entire park into a Queer Block Party.

She says the big bulky stage will be replaced in favour of a smaller and closer to the ground version, which will host a DJ, intermixed with local entertainment. There will also be more space set aside for blankets and picnic baskets.

The week of Pride events will begin with a raising of the rainbow flag at City Hall, an event first highlighted by former gay Winnipeg Mayor Glen Murray. This year is also the thirtieth anniversary of the Rainbow flag and it will be highlighted at the rally, with special decorations on the festival ground.

As in past years, the festival grounds will also host a business fair allowing for some browsing and shopping at GLBT and GLBT-friendly businesses. There will be crafts and information booths by service providers.

Sunday June 8 will also see the annual Pride Dance Party. This year it will feature entertainers including The Wyrd Sisters and it will take place on the top floor of the Marlborough Hotel in two ballrooms. The party theme is Sugar and Spice and one highlight will be appearances by Lady Bunny, a fabulous drag queen from New York who founded Wigstock and whose real name is John Ingle.

Lady Bunny (see **ladybunny.net**) is internationally renowned, hails from Tennessee and is noted for her sky-high wigs, long lashes, glitzy gowns, southern charm—and something of a potty mouth when it comes to humour. She has toured as far as Tel Aviv and has shared stages with k.d. lang, Cyndi Lauper and the B-52's.

Besides her risqué jokes she also does skits and sidesplitting, X-rated parodies of pop songs. She was founder, organizer and hostess of New York's *Wigstock*, an outrageous festival of drag queens and music, which ran for twenty years and annually attracted up to 40,000 New Yorkers.

Pride events also include an annual Womyn's boat cruise May 30 called Love On The Boat; a Pitch for Pride baseball tournament on May 31; a rollerskating derby

on June 4; Urban Nights, a cocktail soiree atop the Winnipeg Art Gallery on June 4; a Reel Pride film fest June 5; a Pride Coffee House with readings and songs on June 6; a Pride Golf Tournament June 7; a loft party called Cocktails In The Trees on June 7; and on Sunday, June 8, there will be an interfaith service at Augustine United Church with the theme Affirming Our Spiritual and Sexual Diversity.

Pride chair Marie-Line Lacerte says community groups running specific events have helped take some of the pressure off of the main organizing committee and it's also brought many new volunteers into the festivities.

Greg Hamilton, who is heading up organization of the Lambda business fair on Pride day, June 8, says they have thirty tables available for GLBT and GLBT-friendly businesses. Last year they sold out and he is hopeful the same will happen this year. "The businesses cover everything from real estate to Pridewear clothing, jewelry and financial services, including a credit union," he says. "This year for the first time the R.C.M.P. are also taking a table as part of their active recruitment drive. City police have also participated in past fairs." Lambda administrative chair Zanna Joyce says the business group also plans a business networking and social gathering at the Delta hotel. She says it will be a chance for business members to socialize and welcome prospective new Lambda members. "We're actively trying to develop and expand our membership, which includes lawyers, photographers, investment planners, realtors and many others," she says. "This year we produced a directory and we find the trade fair in Pride week is great for promoting our goals as well as our businesses."

You can find out more details and updates on Winnipeg Pride at their website: **gaypridewinnipeg.com** ▼

Peter Carlyle-Gordge is a former Manitoba correspondent for **Maclean's** *and* **The Financial Post.** *He has written for most major magazines and newspapers in Canada as well as broadcasting on the national and international networks of CBC Radio. As honorary press secretary to the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba in the 1980s, Peter was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal for services to Canada in 2003.*

Pride 2008 SASKATCHEWAN

Proud To B In Saskatchewan

By Rick Pollard

The first two weeks of June will mark Saskatchewan's Season of Pride as Regina, Prince Albert and Saskatoon host Pride Weeks.

The Queen City

The Season of Pride begins on Saturday, May 31, 2008 with the annual Regina GLBT Pride Parade, a reversal from previous Pride celebrations. "In Regina, most people think of Pride as being the day of the Parade," Pride Committee Co-Chair Mirtha Rivera explains. " They're often quite disappointed to realize that an entire week of events has passed, events they might have attended had they known. We decided to use the parade to capture their attention early and give them an opportunity to attend some of the other events."

The theme of Regina Pride 2008 is Proud to B, in reference to remarks by Regina Conservative MP Tom Lukiwski in 1991 that recently surfaced on videotape. On the tape, Lukiwski says, "Let me put it to you this way. There's A's and B's. The A's are guys like me. The B's are homosexual faggots with dirt in their fingernails that transmit diseases."

Lukiwski's remarks suggested that he considers queer people to be second-class citizens. But Regina queers and their supporters turned that comment on its head at a recent rally in front of Lukiwski's office proclaiming that they are proud members of the B-Team. One speaker at the rally appealed to the Saskatchewan general public for support, pointing out, "Even if you're not gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered or two-spirited, you may still be members of someone's idea of a B-Team!"

The parade gets underway at 11 AM behind the GLCR Community Centre at 2070 Broad Street and proceeds west on Victoria Avenue and south on Albert Street before arriving at the Legislative Building. It will be followed by a community barbecue at the GLCR hosted by the Lavender Social Club.

On Sunday, June 1, Pink Triangle Community Services and PFLAG Regina will host the annual Pride Family Picnic in Kiwanis/Waterfall Park starting at 12 noon. In the evening, Generation Queer will host Pride Idol at the GLCR Community Centre.

On Monday, June 2, the annual Rainbow Flag raising will take place at City Hall at 12 noon. Then, at 8 PM, the formal Pride Opening Ceremonies will be held at the GLCR at 8 PM.

On Tuesday, June 3, the One Song transgendered support group will host Transgendered 101, an educational information session for the community at the offices of SSILK, 2220 Albert Street. This will be followed at the same location by Regina Pride's most successful ongoing event, the Annual Coming Out Party hosted by Generation Queer.

On Wednesday, June 4, the Two-Spirited support group will host their Annual Feast. This will be followed at 8 PM by the Opening Night of Regina's Seventh Biennial GLBT2 film festival, Queer City Cinema. The night is being billed as "Homo Made in Saskatchewan, a screening of international fun and fierce short films, including the latest and greatest from Regina's own Courtney Gillen." For more information, visit **queercitycinema.ca**.

On Thursday, June 5, the Women's Coffee House will be held at the GLCR at 7 PM followed by Pride Karaoke.

On Friday, June 6, the Regal Social Association and Empress Roxy Diva-Sanoir will host the Drag Alympics at the GLCR.

On Saturday, June 7, the GLCR will host either the White Party, or the Black and White Party, depending upon the outcome of a discussion still underway as this magazine goes to press.

Finally, on Sunday, June 8, the Annual Pride Awards will be handed out, followed by the Closing Ceremonies and a Candlelight Vigil to remember all those members of the queer community who are no longer with us.

For more information on Regina Pride 2008, call (306)-569-1995, or check out the Regina Pride Week 2008 Event on Facebook.

Prince Albert

Prince Albert Pride 2008 also takes place the first week of June, perhaps appropriate given that the city is named for the consort of the queen for whom Regina is named.

The first Pride celebration in Prince Albert was held in 2007, but organizers are expecting a smoother ride this year. Last year, local pastor Rick Potratz sent a petition to City Council asking them to vote against the parade and warning of "men walking down the streets half-naked wearing nothing but a G-string."

This year's theme is Love Builds A Community.

The week begins on Sunday, June 1 with a Family Fun Day in Kinsmen Park from 12-5 PM with a free BBQ and games in the afternoon.

On Monday, June 2, the Pride Flag raising Ceremony will take place at City Hall at 10 AM.

On Tuesday, June 4, there will be a free Movie Night at the John M. Cuelenaere Public Library starting at 7 PM.

On Wednesday, June 5 is the night for Queer-A-Rama bowling at the Minto Bowl and Recreation Centre located at 201 13 Street East. The cost is $3.25 + GST/game for adults with a one time shoe rental of $1.20 and $3.50 + GST for Youth 18 and under and the shoes are free! The event gets underway at 7 PM. You can register your team of six by calling Jennifer at 922-2228.

On Thursday, June 5, Prince Albert queer community members will gather to "share their experiences of living in Prince Albert and to discuss ways to create a more accepting and safe community for all."

On Saturday, June 7 is the second parade in Saskatchewan's Season of Pride. The lineup begins at 11 am at 4th Avenue and River Street West. The march begins at 12 noon, ending with a rally at City Hall Memorial Square. That evening, the annual Pride Dance will be held at the Prince Albert Union Centre. Tickets are $5 in advance, and $7 at the door. The DJ will be Radioactive Dance Party.

Other events for Prince Albert Pride Week were still being booked at press time. For more information on Prince Albert Pride, call Jennifer at (306)-922-2228.

Saskatoon

Saskatchewan's Season of Pride concludes with Saskatoon Pride Week, which runs from June 8-June 14th, 2008. This year's theme is Passport to Pride.

The week gets underway on Sunday, June 8 at Ashworth Holmes Park (Avenue E and 31 Street West) with the annual Family Fun Day in the Park. The event starts off with a BBQ followed by games in the afternoon.

That same day, there will be a Paintball Extravaganza at Battlefield Paintball starting at 1 PM. For more information, contact Amy at paintball@saskatoonpride.ca or check out the Facebook event: **facebook.com/event.php?eid=12017398723**.

There were also unconfirmed reports at press time of a possible screening of For the Bible Tells Me So at the Roxy at 3 PM.

On Monday, June 9, at 10:30 AM, the Rainbow Flag will be raised at City Hall. Then, at 7 PM, check out Gay Latte at Prairie Ink Restaurant, McNally Robinson Booksellers.

Tuesday, June 10 promises the "Gayest Bingo Ever" at Dance Saskatchewan, 905A Pacific Avenue. The doors open at 6 PM, card sales end at 6:45 PM, and bingo gets underway at 7 PM. The cost is $20 for a 12-up book of cards.

Wednesday, June 11 presents the Sing-A-Long Movie in the Park at the Vimy Memorial in Kiwanis Park. This year's movie is *Hairspray*. The event gets underway at 8:30 PM with the movie starting at dusk. Participants are invited to come dressed as their favourite character from the movie or as someone from that era. There will be prizes for the best costumes.

Thursday, June 12 promises to be busy with three separate events. Queer-O-Rama Bowling will be held at Rak's Pin House, 217 Fairmont Drive at 7 PM. There are also plans for a Martini Crawl through Saskatoon's Downtown.

Finally, there will be the CD Release Party for Jeff Straker's new album "Step Right Up" at a location TBA. Straker is a Canadian singer-songwriter-pianist described on his website as " a little of Elton John and a little of Rufus Wainwright in a blender" with a "dash of Mika" tossed in. For more information, visit **jeffstraker.com**.

Friday, June 13 features the "Chicks with Sticks Street Hockey Tournament" getting underway at 6:30 PM in the basketball courts behind Victoria School. Participants are urged to "come on out and show your Sporty Spice skills." To register or for more information, e-mail Jocelyn at pridestreethockey@hotmail.com.

Pride Week concludes Saturday, June 14 with the annual Pride Parade starting from the park on 23 Street in front of City Hall. Lineup begins at 11 AM and the march begins at 12 noon. Those who wish to drive a vehicle in the parade should E-mail kelly@saskatoonpride.ca. Parking is available on 23 Street between 3 and 4 Avenue, which will be closed to traffic for the day.

There will also be a Community Fair in Civic Plaza from 11 AM to 4 PM, featuring booths from local merchants and organizations, and a main stage show featuring drag shows and musical performances including Jeff Straker.

Finally, the annual Pride Dance will be held at Louie's Pub between 9 PM and 1 AM. Tickets are $10 for Saskatoon Diversity Network members and $12 for non-members.

Saskatoon Pride is organized by the Saskatoon Diversity Network, a volunteer-driven, not-for-profit organization whose motto is "Living Out Loud, Saskatoon Proud". For more information, visit **saskatoonpride.ca**. ▼

Rick Pollard is a long-time community activist and one of the co-hosts of "Out On the Air", a GLBT program that airs Wednesdays on CJTR community radio in Regina.

OUT 2008

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:: 6/22 Pooches Out On Parade ::
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:: 6/23 Bowling Blow-Out ::
teams of 5 compete on the alley

:: 6/24 Out With Ellen ::
showcase of popular local talent

:: 6/26 We're Funny That Way ::
queer comedy outing

:: 6/27 Out Of Bounds ::
beach volleyball

:: 6/27 Evolution ::
outrageous out of the ordinary club night
prizes for outstanding outfits

:: 6/28 Voices Carry ::
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:: 6/29 Out Of Commission ::
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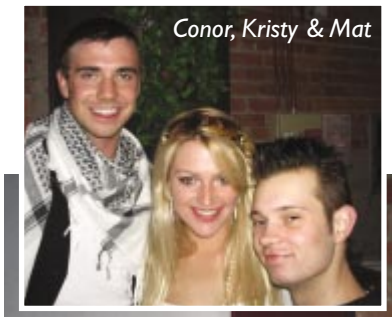
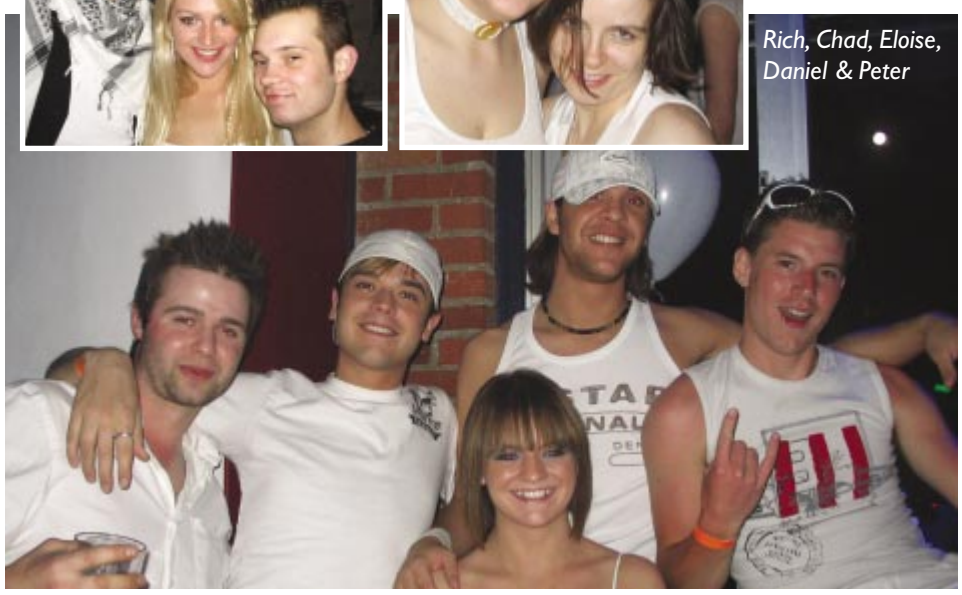

Conor, Kristy & Mat

Ajay & Morag


Rich, Chad, Eloise, Daniel & Peter

Andrew & Joshua

Denise, Kevin, Whitney, Evan & Karen

Planning an event in Calgary? Contact Perry at pmah@outlooks.ca and he'll see about covering it in Out & About.
Photos by: Outlooks Staff

Peter Christian Chance

Carly & Aunty Patty

Matt Skallerud welcomes delegates

A Sparkling Silver Celebration for IGLTA

By Roy Heale

There is a well-known rule that Whatever Happens in Vegas Stays in Vegas, but this is that one exception to the rule—it has to be retold and gossiped about. Recently the International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association (IGLTA) held their 25th Anniversary Annual Convention in Las Vegas and although silver is usually associated with this milestone it proved to be a solid gold event.

Records were broken with almost five hundred registered delegates representing twenty-five countries from around the globe. For six pink days from April 29 to May 4, the rainbow found its pot of gold in Vegas—and not just with four queens in the casinos!

The convention agenda included a welcome reception at the fabulous Mediterranean-inspired Ritz-Carlton resort on Lake Las Vegas. Here, amidst the quaint Montelago Village and the Pontevecchio-style bridge spanning the lake, 179 first-time delegates enjoyed a unique welcome reception. The purpose was to provide assistance to these IGLTA virgins in navigating their way around this awesome event and in order to maximise their experience.

These novitiates to an IGLTA convention exemplified the enthusiasm for the gay travel industry, and the significant growth of this association in the past year since the 2007 convention in Montréal, Canada, attended by almost three hundred delegates. One can only hope this phenomenal growth in 2008 was inspired by the good time enjoyed by all in that great Québec city—renowned for always hosting a gay old time. It was immediately apparent at this gathering that for the next few days it would be akin to an assembly of the GLBT United Nations and that every global language was going to be heard and understood by someone gay!

Las Vegas Ambassador and Mayor

Emotional electricity charged the air at the Opening Welcome Reception as the Vegas-style introduction, facilitated by current IGLTA President Matt Skallerud of Pink Banana Media, set the tone for the coming few days. The renowned Las Vegas showgirls and guys joined Skallerud onstage as he welcomed everyone to the city and the Silver Anniversary Convention. Copious amounts of cocktails and hors d'oeuvres rounded out the perfect gay welcome to the excited delegates.

During the course of the next few days, attendees enjoyed a full and diverse agenda—from an official opening day breakfast with the Mayor of Las Vegas, Oscar B. Goodman, who genuinely made *his* city feel like a home-away-from-home to all who journeyed from far and wide to seminars and luncheons. Guest speakers, including renowned author and gay icon Armistead Maupin—who delightfully engaged with the audience in a coffee-table discussion followed by an autograph

session of his new book *Michael Tolliver Lives*—to trade shows, a public Expo, and of course industry networking plus much more.

Armistead Maupin with husband Christopher Turner

Such was the significance of this convention that the Las Vegas Pride organisers arranged for their annual Pride celebrations to coincide with this event. As if the convention alone was not overwhelming enough to the delegates, the after-dark Pride Parade and the Saturday Festival in the Government Grounds provided the icing on the cake for an ultimate gay experience in a town renowned for incredibly magical and very memorable moments.

The Friday afternoon media trade show was a first-time event for this convention. It provided an opportunity for about forty media outlets to tell their individual stories and for the delegates to learn about how to work with the GLBT media from around the world. This proved to be a very educational forum for both the travel experts and exhibitors alike, guaranteeing its reappearance at future conventions.

At the Pride Festival on the Saturday afternoon, local gay and gay-friendly business exhibitors mixed with IGLTA members' booths, live entertainment, and food and beverages for a marvelous social and business exchange on a hot sunny afternoon in the park. Over one thousand local residents, tourists and convention delegates joined in the festivities for a wonderfully international gay celebration of Pride.

For the Canadian delegation, Saturday evening proved to be a proud moment as the City of Toronto Tourism hosted a gala reception in celebration of their hosting of the 2009 IGLTA Convention. Local performers journeyed all the way from Toronto to showcase their city's diverse festivals and multi-cultural history. Almost every one of the registered delegates were in attendance to learn more about what Toronto would be like in 2009 and mark their calendars to be there for another great gathering of gay tourism professionals.

Following Toronto's extravaganza, the Las Vegas Visitors and Convention Association hosted the Gala Dinner in Vintage Vegas Style celebrating twenty-five years of IGLTA history. With entertainment by the Rat Pack, a gourmet dinner and guest speakers recounting IGLTA's fascinating history, it was a night to remember. Especially for the delegation from Antwerp, Belgium including the Vice-Mayor Philip Heylen, who amidst stiff competition from Seville, Spain and London, England, were confirmed as the successful contenders awarded the host city rights for the 2010 IGLTA convention. Who would have thought twenty-five years ago that a GLBT travel convention would attract fierce competitive bidding from cities around the world, similar to major straight gatherings? Some incredibly visionary gay men and woman in 1983, that's who!

The only sad moments at this final Gala Dinner were the inevitable good-byes that had to be said to new found friends and global gay travel industry peers. But easing the melancholy was the bright side of new business opportunities, the possibility of re-acquainting in Toronto, and the numerous, warm farewell hugs and kisses. One thing is for sure—a new friend within the GLBT travel community is a friend for life.

Not content to rest on his laurels, John Tanzella, Executive Director of IGLTA, says, " Our mission for the next year is to continue our growth in Europe, Latin America, Australia and Canada. Strengthening our global partnerships with media and other associations will ensure continued growth for IGLTA." With his great enthusiasm, positive energy and charm, Tanzella continued, "The Toronto Convention will assume an Ontario flavour with pre- and post-convention trips to locales such as Canada's capital city Ottawa, and to the famous Niagara Falls. It will also have a strong partnership with the local Toronto GLBT community. Plans are well underway for a mid-June spectacular in 2009."

Those who participated in this historic twenty-fifth anniversary summit in Vegas will surely look forward—with great anticipation—to Toronto in 2009.

But to those travel industry professionals who are not IGLTA members, or members who missed this historic convention, one can only say "what a pity!" If you were left out and missed this incredible opportunity, you may want to become a member and along with existing members, plan to attend Toronto's gathering in 2009. You won't be disappointed. The traditional gay festivities, the serious business networking opportunities, the educational forums and the commerce exchanges, provide a unique and rare unparalleled annual opportunity not to be missed.

It would be remiss not to extend a huge thank-you to the staff at IGLTA, the volunteers, convention sponsors, the IGLTA Board of Directors, Las Vegas Visitors and Convention staff and all who worked so tirelessly to make this GLBT historic event a magnificent success. The phenomenal growth may have surprised all concerned but the end result can only be described as perfection.

The ultimate outcome for the gay traveller and vacationer surely means more gay-positive experiences whenever and wherever you travel to enjoy the hospitality offered by IGLTA member companies. The ultimate goal for IGLTA is to ensure that your vacation is the perfect, comfortable gay experience.

See you all in Toronto, Canada in 2009 and Antwerp, Belgium 2010!

For further information visit **iglta.org** ▼

Roy Heale has been the owner of SuperMarketing for the past twenty-five years and is the founder and publisher of Outlooks *magazine. He is also a member of the Travel Media Association of Canada.*

IGLTA's Twenty-Five Year Journey:
Breaking Down Barriers

By John D'Alessandro

In 1983, a group of twenty-five gay Bed and Breakfast proprietors and travel agents came together to discuss how they could support each other in their efforts to provide safe and accepting travel opportunities for gay travellers. This small gathering twenty-five years ago was the beginning of IGTA! No, IGTA is not a miss-print as the association's original name was The International Gay Travel Association.

Keep in mind that twenty-five years ago "gay" was a more generic term for the community at large. It is worthy to note that there were two women at IGTA's first meeting, held in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, and at the first convention six months later, held in San Francisco, California; the first president was a woman from Toronto, Canada. Nonetheless, women in the GLBT community felt overshadowed by their male counterparts and fought for a more visible lesbian community. In 1997, IGTA joined that effort and was renamed IGLTA.

GLBT tourism has not always been considered an important market segment in the minds of the greater tourism community. In the 80s, the community was shunned to say the least. In those early years IGLTA was about promoting "Safe Havens" where GLBT travellers could leave the closet at home and travel to a destination where they could feel comfortable to be themselves. Back then there was a relatively short list of GLBT friendly destinations including San Francisco, Amsterdam and Sydney. This was a grass roots effort spearheaded by small GLBT business owners with no major tourism players involved.

In the 90s, IGLTA took on a new mission, to educate the mainstream tourism community regarding an outstanding business opportunity—GLBT Tourism. We coined a phrase, "Building bridges where barriers once stood," and began a substantial outreach program to the tourism industry. As corporate tourism professionals learned more about the DINK—Dual Income No Kids—niche with discretionary income and time to travel, they jumped on the IGLTA bandwagon. Major airlines, tourism bureaus, hotels, and wholesalers joined the IGLTA and GLBT travel became known as "The Golden Niche". This substantial growth enabled the association to hire its first paid Executive Director and open a dedicated office, located in Denver, Colorado.

The dawn of the Twenty-First Century found GLBT travel front and center in the tourism industry. GLBT-driven booths at travel industry gatherings are always swamped with curious and interested visitors. Major tourism websites not only create GLBT portals but also prominently display links to the gay section on their homepages. This incredible twenty-five year journey has not only helped strengthen IGLTA member's businesses but has truly built bridges where barriers once stood.

In the early years, IGLTA members considered themselves more like a group of friends working together to empower each other as opposed to an association. Today IGLTA can proudly state that it truly has lived up to its mission statement which is: IGLTA is the world's leading travel trade association committed to growing and enhancing its members' gay and lesbian tourism business through education, promotion and networking.

Today, thanks to the efforts of the IGLTA, its past and present boards, staff, sponsors and members, the only GLBT Tourism "Short List" indicates where not to go!

Special thanks are extended to the hundreds—no, thousands—of individuals who have, and continue to support, our mission. ▼

John D'Alessandro is a former Director and Board President of IGLTA and now makes his home in Miami, Florida.

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Pride 2008 EDMONTON

By Jonathan Busch

The experience of one's first pride parade is not easy to forget, or overlook as fundamental to the formation of a clear perspective on sexual identity within their chosen community. It's become a staple to the summer agendas of several groups, and not only queers—liberally-minded families with a love for parades, downtown city dwellers looking for a bit of sun, and pets who don't mind wearing miniature feather boas. I'm sure there are others, but what they have in common the most is their susceptibility to the influence of bright colors, rambunctious cheer and an ever-expanding diversity of participants. In short, nobody leaves without feeling at least a little different.

"The event has grown in size and complexity over the years," reports Edmonton Pride Week Society co-chair Ken MacDonald, "The challenge has been to make it fresh, interesting, and unique, year to year." A bunch of new events, broader sponsorship and an expanded community involvement are what positively set Edmonton Pride 2008 apart from previous years, having become one of the city's premiere summer festivals. The central theme for 2008 is Mardi Gras, and hence has been branded "Unmasked and Outrageous", anticipating tossing the New Orleans tradition of masks and beads into the festivities.

A common misconception is that the parade is the first event, though it's actually the Pride Awards held at City Hall that kicks off Pride Week on Friday, June 13 at 8 PM. The Pride Awards acknowledges contributions achievements made by individuals and groups in Edmonton's queer community. This year, a round of glass-blown sculptures has been commissioned to honor the recipients, an extra effort made by the committee to add to the uniqueness of the evening. Also, the Pride Flag will be raised in front of City Hall, to flap triumphantly in the wind for the remainder of the week. The event is free and open to the entire community, with a reception to follow.

The following day of June 14, 2008, downtown Edmonton will no doubt get served with one of the loudest, most colorful parties of the summer, the Pride Parade. Heading down Jasper Avenue at 2:00 PM, the longest train of queers, queens, allies, and not to mention, their vehicles and pets will jive its way to Churchill Square for its signature rally. Beer gardens, food vendors, and community information booths of many types will readily available, along with a main stage of entertainment hosted by female impersonators, Vanity Fair and Bianca. It will be so much fun, it's scary!

The aftermath of the parade unleashes a thread of great events throughout the week. That evening, Edmonton Vocal Minority holds a live concert and the Womonspace Unity dance takes place. On Sunday June 15, the Mayor's Pride Brunch will precede the Gay Cup baseball challenge, which sees the Rainbow Slo-Pitch team compete against Edmonton Police Services, along with various sporting events sponsored by Team Edmonton. On Tuesday, the Chief of Police is hosting a reception at Police Headquarters and PFLAG runs a panel discussion at the Stanley A. Milner downtown library.

Last year's Queer Images film festival, in partnership with Metro Cinema, has expanded to cover two evenings on June 18 and 19. Three documentaries will be screened, including *Red Without Blue*, the story of two male identical twins, one of whom makes the decision to become a woman, *A Jihad for Love*, about GLBT Muslims in Middle Eastern and Western worlds, and *Freeheld*, this year's documentary short Oscar winner about a dying lesbian police officer battling the courts to leave her assets to her partner. As well, fans of local award-winning filmmaker Trevor Anderson can see his newest work, *Dinx*.

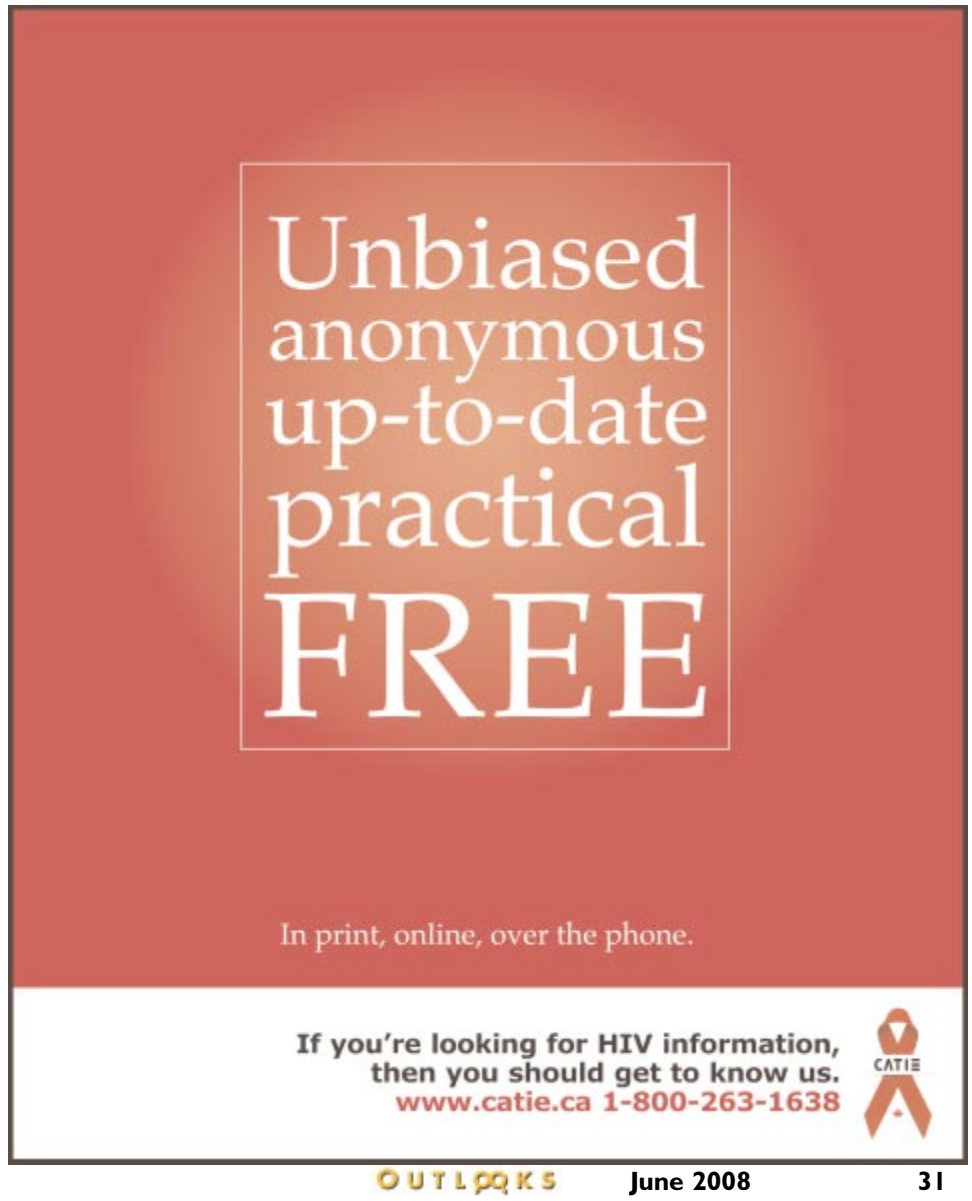
If Pride patrons are looking to party, there are two great opportunities to shake it up. On Friday, the Pride Centre will hold a youth dance. Also, the Gayla, held at the Enterprise (the old Bay building on Jasper Avenue) will feature live music and dancing, an underwear fashion show, and a martini bar and silent auction. Partiers are encouraged to dress in accordance with the Mardi Gras theme, not to mention be seen on the dance floor moving about to Louisiana Creole band. Tickets can be purchased at the Pride Centre, Tix on the Square, and at various Pride events.

While all good things must come to an end, it will no doubt be a satisfying cap off the week at the Pride Family Brunch at the Pride Centre on Sunday morning. This is a free brunch for the community and will include family friendly events.

If you've got some free time and enthusiasm, people can look into volunteering which, according to Ken, is "the core of Pride Week". Every year, dozens of individuals volunteer literally hundreds of hours to make the events a success, and their assistance has helped the festival expand. Pride Week also engages community groups, offering honoraria back to the groups as a way to recognize their contribution.

If you're interested in volunteering, drop by the website **prideedmonton.org** to leave a note. Visit their website for that, and also additional information about events of Edmonton Pride Week. ▼

Jonathan Busch is a freelance writer who lives downtown Edmonton with his cat Mooshoo.



Pride 2008 CALGARY

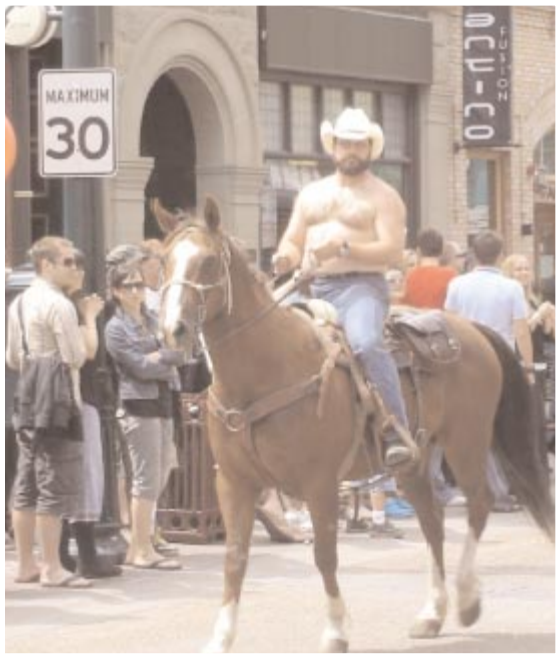
By Outlooks Staff

Once again the Pride festivities in Calgary will encompass the Fairy Tales Film Festival, the official Pride Calgary celebrations, The ARGRA (Alberta Rockies Gay Rodeo Association) Canadian Rockies International Rodeo and a concert performance by the Calgary Men's Chorus, creating a month long celebration for all to enjoy. This will surely prove to be a Pride celebration in true western style.

Fairy Tales X is the tenth anniversary international gay and lesbian Film Festival in Calgary. It runs from May 27 to June 5 and is the second-largest film festival in Calgary, with over fifty movies, shorts and documentaries to enjoy in addition to Festival parties and special events. This year's festival will revisit some memorable films from the past, screen movies that missed Calgary the first time around and showcase some of the most innovative, talented and dynamic filmmakers and their work from seventeen different countries.

Official Pride Calgary events include the Pride Parade on the Stephen Avenue Walk Sunday June 8, commencing at Noon, followed by the Street Gala at Olympic Plaza from Noon to 6 PM. Also, a special screening of *Butch Jamie* will take place at The Plaza Theatre on June 4 at 7 PM and The Military Ball will be held on Saturday June 7 at the Calgary Eagle. The Homo Hop—Youth Dance—will be held on Friday June 13 at the Hillhurst Community Hall and the Tribal Awards Party at Money Pennies on Saturday, June 14. The final wrap-up event for Pride Calgary will be the annual Pride Dance "Celebration 2008" with art, music and dance, which will be held at the Chinese Cultural Centre on Saturday, June 21.

At Twisted Element there will be an After Pride Party on Sunday June 8th. The doors open at 3 PM with free burgers for the first 200 people, hourly prizes and special guest Willie Taylor.



The Backlot will once again host their Annual After the Pride Parade BBQ starting immediately after the Pride Parade featuring BBQ burgers and drink specials.

This year marks the fifteenth annual Canadian Rockies International Rodeo to be held at Symons Valley Ranch from June 26-29. The Friday night Cabaret with Aaron Pritchett will kick-off the festivities in traditional style and the Saturday night Bud Light Barn Burner Dance is sure to be the biggest GLBT gathering in Calgary this year. The rodeo activities will take place on Saturday and Sunday with the Awards Banquet and Happy Trails Dance on the Sunday night. This is certain to be another fun family weekend for the gay and lesbian community to enjoy.

The Calgary Men's Chorus will present *The Strength to Dream,* June 20, 2008 at the Rozsa Centre, University of Calgary 8 pm. Tickets are $20.00 from chorus members or at the door.

All in all this year's Calgary Pride festivities will make the month of June a great beginning to the summer. ▼

For more information visit:

fairytalesfilmfest.com Pridefestival.ca ARGRA.org

calgarymenschorus.org

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Cutting funding = cutting lives

By Sean McLennan

Last year, the Conservative government committed $111 million dollars to the Canadian HIV Vaccine Initiative in conjunction with the Gates Foundation (which kicked in another $28 million). The goal of the initiative is to support Canadian researchers and institutions strive to discover new HIV vaccine candidates, strengthen clinical trials capacity, and address policy, regulatory and social issues related to the development of an HIV vaccine. It seems like a pretty progressive move for a Prime Minister who failed to participate in the International AIDS Conference in August 2006. The lesser-known fact, however, is where (at least a portion) of that $111 million is coming from: community-based prevention and support service programs across the country.

Nobody will disagree that actively pursuing an HIV vaccine is both a noble and necessary part of a holistic approach to combating HIV/AIDS both in Canada and around the world. The operative word is "holistic"; education, prevention, and support of those living with HIV/AIDS is equally—if not more—important; it is, if nothing else, an approach that is proven to save lives. Sacrificing our community-based organizations in favour of vaccine research—the fruits of which are years, maybe decades, away—makes little social or economic sense. Put aside for a moment the moral implications and just consider that every new HIV infection costs the Canadian government an estimated $750,000. That means that the investment that we put into prevention pays off very quickly, especially given, that unlike many major diseases like heart disease, cancer, or diabetes, HIV is readily preventable through education alone. Unfortunately, it's hard to witness the impact of education and prevention directly—it's not easy to quantify non-events. A sure-fire way to measure the effectiveness of education though, is to remove it from the equation and watch as the infections rise...

This all comes despite a 2006 promise by the Federal Initiative on HIV/AIDS to increase funding from $42.2 million to $84.5 million by 2008-9. Susan Cress, the Executive Director of the AIDS Calgary Awareness Association and Chair of the Alberta Community Council on HIV had this to say: "Alberta AIDS Service Organizations have not received an increase in funding since 2004. Instead of an expected increase this year, we will have a decrease from last year's amounts." In fact, $7 million will be cut over a five-year period despite the fact that the number of new infections in Canada is still rising—an estimated 4000 per year. As the client base continues to grow both from new infections, and because on the whole, persons living with HIV/AIDS are living longer, they simply can't continue to offer the same level of services while the funding dries up.

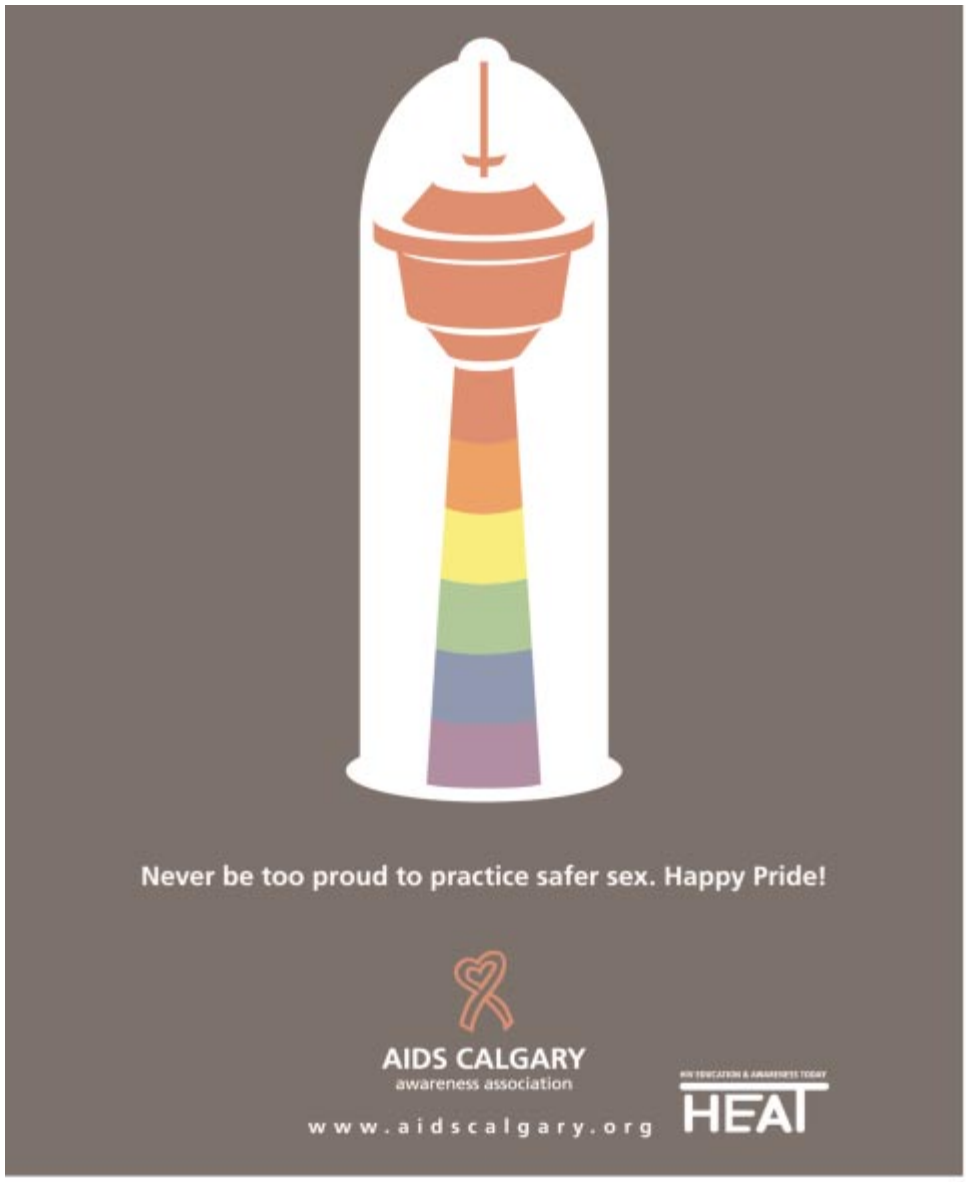
Perhaps even more frustrating is the inability to plan. Historically, funding was allocated in three or four-year blocks—it is now just year-to-year. None of the AIDS service organizations have any idea what their funding will look like past May 2009. Some have even less of an idea of what the future holds; as of this writing, according to Sue Cress, Alberta AIDS service organizations had no funding commitment beyond March 31, 2008. They expect something to be signed, but have no idea how much to expect. As any business person knows, the ability to plan is key to the success of any organization, especially with tight budgetary constraints. This kind of uncertainty destabilizes community-based organizations in several different ways: they are unable to plan initiatives beyond the immediate short-term. They are unable to invest in growth and research to make themselves and their work more efficient. They are unable to draw and retain the human resources that are ultimately responsible for their successful operation. They must divert more of their limited resources to external fund-raising and administration. And most importantly of all—they are unable to maintain consistency in the level and quality of services that they provide.

One of the ways in which, not just community AIDS organizations, but all non-profits these days, stay afloat is through an increase in donations from the public sector. It is fantastic that communities are willing to contribute as much as they do to the non-profits and, especially now, it has never been more necessary. But we need to take a step back and examine what that means in the grander scheme of things. The public's willingness to donate is exploited to an extent that was unheard of even twenty years ago. The resources of non-profit organizations are increasingly diverted from their mandated work into public relations and fund-raising; as the trend increases, there is more and more competition for the limited pool of donation dollars and more resources get diverted in order to maintain the status quo. Scale begins to play a serious role—big organizations get bigger and the smaller organizations disappear. They simply lose viability as the costs of fund-raising outweigh the funds raised. The social cost is high—we lose necessary diversity in programs available, and populations that can't command the public's attention fall through the cracks. In the long run, pitting non-profits against each other and forcing them to behave like corporations (but without the capital or income of corporations) is a ridiculous waste of resources and undermines the social support they provide.

Although dismayed, Sue Cress isn't surprised by the funding cuts to the front-line organizations—"this isn't an HIV-friendly government," she says. She thinks that although the disease has been relatively normalized, support for the disease has not. There is still a great deal of subtle stigma surrounding HIV and this government makes decisions based more on morality than research. Education and harm-reduction are proven strategies that work NOW to prevent the spread of the disease. (Keep in mind that HIV is the only serious biological threat today that can be effectively eradicated by a simple change in behaviour.) In light of the fact that two promising vaccine candidates utterly failed recently—in one case perhaps even having the opposite effect—choosing to focus on vaccine research at the cost of proven methods can only be understood as an implicit moral judgment on those methods. While our leaders are incapable of setting aside the taboo of sex and drugs, and the marginalization of the populations most at risk to look at the problem of HIV/AIDS objectively, we can't really expect more from them. Tragically, we can't compensate for the human cost of such decisions.

In response to this crisis in HIV/AIDS funding, organizations across the country have pulled together a national postcard campaign, "Cutting funding = cutting lives". Visit **increaseaidsfunding.ca** for more information. ▼

Sean McLennan is a native Calgarian with (nearly) a PhD in Linguistics and Cognitive Science from Indiana University, where he was heavily involved in GLBT education. He currently has a full time gig in software for mobile technology.



Living With The Tango

By Roy Heale

Sometimes known as the Paris of South America and always recognised as the most gay-friendly city in South America, Buenos Aires is becoming a favorite gay vacation destination. A metropolis of approximately thirteen million residents, at its heart can be found the elegance of European capitals and the soul of Latin America. This lively urban lifestyle is attracting new residents from around the globe who visit on vacation or business, fall in love with the bon vivant attitude, then relocate to Buenos Aires for a change of pace or climate.

The locals—known as Portenos—are open, warm, friendly and non-discriminatory, all of which adds to this city's appeal to foreigners. Argentina was the first Latin American country to recognise same-sex civil unions and leave behind the repressed, conservative attitudes that prevailed under military rule. Offering a cosmopolitan urban lifestyle, Buenos Aires is rich in architecture, history, performing arts and culture with beautiful parks—including a large embankment on the southern shore of the Rio de la Plata.

The climate is moderate, with tempaeratures from October to April ranging in the high twenty degrees Celsius, with May to September temperatures ranging in the teens. The coldest month of the year is July with an average temperature of fifteen degrees Celsius, while and the hottest is January with an average of thirty degrees. It's a perfect climate as an option to escape the cold northern winters but still retain the ability to fully enjoy the four seasons.

Economically, Buenos Aires is the financial, industrial, commercial and cultural hub of Argentina. For this reason, investing in real estate has become very popular amongst Europeans, North Americans and visitors from around the globe. Apartments in this city are similar to New York or Paris in size and amenities. Many are located in beautiful old Spanish style buildings. Of course modern, new high-rise apartments are also an option often with twenty-four-hour security, gymnasiums and swimming pools.

Hunting for a perfect South American home can be an adventure, especially since the choices are varied and plentiful. Although currently real estate prices are very reasonable by North American standards—studios from as low as $80,000US, luxury two bedroom high-rise apartments from around $200,000US—prices have appreciated in the past few years and all signs point to continued increases in value in the near future. Very low maintenance fees and property taxes, as well as inexpensive prices for food and entertainment, means living in this city can be much cheaper than most of us are used to at home—no matter what part of the world we hail from. All of these contributing factors are making this the popular new destination for real estate investors or those planning for their future retirement.

If you decide to invest in a Buenos Aires home, it is important to know that many rental agencies will look after your property while you are absent and will arrange to rent it to tourists as an alternative vacation accommodation. This means you can generate an income as well as enjoy your Latin American getaways. According to Ralf Hobeck, owner of ba4UApartments, "Vacationers are increasingly enjoying the concept of renting an apartment instead of staying in a hotel. There are significant cost savings and it can be a more enjoyable vacation when you can make use of a kitchen and live like a Porteno during your holiday. For the apartment owner, it provides an excellent source of income to offset the costs of their Buenos Aires apartment."

Finding the right apartment and navigating the complex purchasing process will almost certainly require the services of a local real estate agent and preferably one who speaks English. Although the process is similar to what we are used to in Canada, a local expert will guide you through the indigenous nuances and the Spanish language terminology. The popular inner-city neighbourhoods of San Telmo, Puerto Madero, Recoleta and Palermo offer a wide range of choices and a good local realtor will help narrow down the selections based on your criteria.

One of the unusual rules to a home purchase in Buenos Aires concerns the real estate agent's commission, which is divided between both the seller and the purchaser. Usually each party pays a three percent commission—sometimes four percent—plus a twenty-one per cent VAT tax on the commissions to the federal government. This is a separate financial transaction from the actual purchase and is usually paid when the vendor accepts the purchaser's offer. When you have decided on the property you would like to buy, the first step is to make an offer and pay the reserva—usually $1000US—which prevents the vendor from showing the place to any other interested parties. The usual counter-offer process continues until both parties have agreed on the purchase price. To conclude the purchase you will need the services of an Escribano (Notary) who will search the title and the property rights for the past ten years—except in the case of new buildings—to ensure there are no mortgages or ownership rights attached to the apartment. The fees for this service range from 1.5 to four per cent of the purchase price and you have the right to choose your own Escribano. The next step is the Boleto—sales contract—which outlines the agreed-upon price, financial terms and transfer of ownership date. Finally, upon possession of the real estate the Escritura will transfer and register your ownership and this again requires the services of your notary. Throughout the process you will want to ensure that you are working with reliable local representatives with an established history in Buenos Aires real estate.

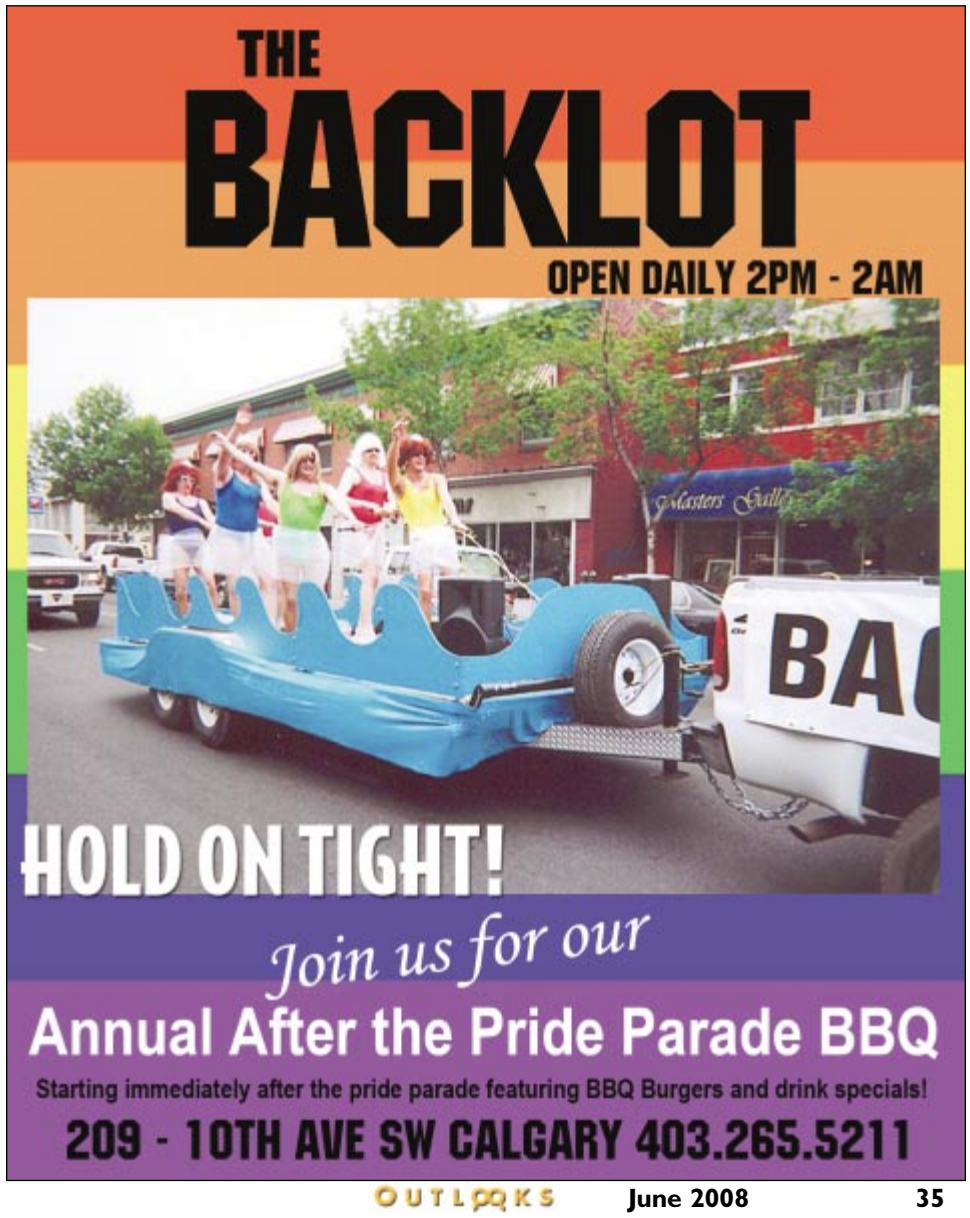
Now the fun will begin as you furnish your apartment and begin to enjoy your vacations in this pleasant city, or venture further afield throughout South America.

The friendly, English speaking staff at ba4U Apartments can assist you with everything from a simple apartment rental on your first visit to a home purchase, renovation and interior décor if you decide that you want to be more of a Porteno in your future. "We have been helping non-residents with their holiday needs and long-term investments in real estate for several years now," says Hobeck. "Many people enjoy our services as we can offer a complete turnkey package from your first vacation to your final home purchase and move-in including everything in between. It often helps to just deal with one company employing English speaking staff. Our realtor Carlos Tortonese is fluent in both the English and Spanish languages."

So now is the time to plan your first, or perhaps another, visit to Buenos Aires and check out this popular and trendy new choice for holiday and retirement living. It's guaranteed to be a memorable visit and many first-timers fall in love with the Argentine way of life.

For Further information visit: **ba4UApartments.com.ar**

realestateguideba.com or e-mail: **carlos@ba4uapartments.com.ar** ▼



Pride 2008
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Pride All Over the Map

By Josh Murray

If the adage is true and "a lady never tells her age", then BC's largest pride celebrations officially become a lady this year. "We are thirty-some years old," laughs Vancouver Pride Society President John Boychuk. "We say thirty-some because there were a few celebrations before but, according to the records passed down, we are thirty years old. We are the oldest, continuous GLBT organization holding pride events in Canada. It's something to be very proud of."

Indeed, Vancouver's annual celebrations (with downtown events kicking off this year on July 26) create many shining moments—so much so that participant numbers continue to soar year after year. "We're anticipating somewhere between 375,000 and 400,000 for the parade this year," explains Boychuk. Crowd control has often been a contentious issue in the past decade, particularly with the city's popular fireworks festival falling on the same weekend. "For the past couple of years, we've been asking for an extension to the parade route and the city did give it to us this year. We're actually starting the parade seven and a half blocks earlier, up Robson," says Boychuk. "We're hoping that it does alleviate and help with safety…and dispersal."

In addition to a lengthier parade route, Vancouver's pride schedule will also see a much-requested debut this year with a Friday night dance party in the heart of Davie Village. "We're trying to build the infrastructure to be able to have more events throughout the weekend," says Boychuk. "It's taken a couple of years to create the partnership, to put the budget together and to have the man-power to do it. This year we figured, 'It's our thirtieth anniversary! Let's do it big!'" Inspired by the success of an on-street pride beer garden five years ago—still heralded by many attendees today as a major success—the dance party will be a welcome addition to the festivities. "We're not trying to duplicate that at all…but we are responding to our surveys over the years," says Boychuk. The event—featuring stages, dance platforms and beer gardens—will run until 11 PM on August 1 along Davie Street between Bute and Burrard.

With up to 12,000 attendees expected, the gathering will add further color to an already established highlight on the west coast's summer calendar. "[Pride] is such an incredible experience that people just have to be part of. We have a city that is extremely tolerant and open-minded. Yes, there are still some challenges—there are still bashings—but, at the same time, we are one of the most progressive cities out there and people feel safe when they come here."

Striving for similar success are the pride celebrations in communities further north—and they certainly appear to be on the right path.

In Prince George, Pride Society President Valentine Crawford is anticipating another promising year. "We are starting to see the fruits of our community's labour…building community and personal relationships." To kick off the 2008 events (which run June 30 to July 6), the society will present the Stonewall Social. "Wine, cheese, guest speakers, and local musicians will fill the evening," says Crawford.

The events of the weekend will all strive to achieve a common goal. "The northern region of British Columbia is still very traditional in many respects. That being said, there has been…growing acceptance, participation and inclusion in the overall community. The more participation from all walks of life and professions, [the more] we will continue to grow."

Growth is a central part of the effort in Prince George. The society, now just five years old, focuses on the public as a whole each year as they plan their pride events, in order to encourage acceptance. "The focus on citizenship is recognition not only for us die-hard volunteers, but a statement to our community that, as citizens, we are all equal members of society and that, when we work together, we can effect change that benefits us and our community."

As they prepare to celebrate, the pride society and others are maintaining their dedication to the political cause in the area as well. "A major challenge that we tend to face is strong leadership within the community," explains Crawford. "We are seeing a growing number of GLBT community leaders, social and political activists, and business people and so people are now seeing things from a different point of view. Prince George and the region still have a long way to go, but with continued participation and understanding those walls will continue to break down."

A few hours south in Kelowna—as with Vancouver and Prince George, the focus on broad public exposure and participation is paramount again in 2008. "We are attempting to bring entertainment that is edgy and has gay content that anyone can enjoy," says Ben Neiland, chair of the pride committee. After attempts in 2007 to involve more of the public at large, Okanagan pride organizers are hoping to grow their celebrations. "There was not the turn-out that we would have liked in 2007 but we did introduce individuals from the city to pride events so, with that momentum, we are expecting a greater response this year."

To draw in crowds between June 21 and July 1, the committee has planned a number of unique events with help from other larger communities. "Certainly the highlight of the events will be the queer comedy festival. This year, we are bringing in 'We're Funny That Way' from Toronto and the Vancouver Men's Chorus approached us and they will also be performing this year at one of our events."

Local flavour is added with a new dog show at the pride picnic, the kick-off dance, and a pride cruise on Okanagan Lake during the Canada Day fireworks. With "Out in the Okanagan" as this year's theme, Neiland and colleagues hope to continue their positive strides. "We want every citizen in the community to see what we are doing and that they to can join us and have fun." ▼

Online Resources

Vancouver Pride: **vancouverpride.ca**
Prince George Pride: **pgpride.com**
Kelowna Pride: **gayokanagan.com/pride2008.html**

Josh Murray is a New York-based writer and the author of American Idol: The Journey to Stardom. For more information, visit joshmurray.ca.

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Discrimination in Guadalajara

By Ralph Higgins

With actions that are very clearly discriminatory, the mayor and council of Guadalajara Mexico are attempting to squeeze out gay businesses from the Historic District. Juan Manuel Michel Parra, director of the office in charge of giving licenses, was quoted in the widely-read newspaper *La Jornada Jalisco* as saying "I believe that the tendency in Guadalajara and in all cities, in most of the cities of the world, is to clean up the historic districts. How? By changing the types of businesses, making more family friendly areas when children can go freely... I don't mean that children would roam free at two in the morning, but so that it can be a more moderate area." *La Jornada Jalisco* also has a recording of Parra saying that he has "specific instructions to improve the atmosphere" of the area. (Translation mine.)

Guadalajara is a city of over five million people and they take justifiable pride in its history. In 1995 it celebrated its 450th anniversary. The Emperor Charles V of the Holy Roman Empire gave the city its charter as a "most loyal and noble city." All of this is taken from the tourism website for Guadalajara which goes on to encourage tourists to make a point of visiting the Centro Histórico which is described as a "nice blend of buildings (which are hundreds of years old) with pedestrian only streets, park benches, fountains, monuments and sculptures. [It is] a great place to slow down and take in this beautiful centre at your own pace."

Doesn't sound much like it needs cleaning up, does it? Or the sort of place one would be afraid to take the children. What the tourism website doesn't tell you is that ten years ago when gay businesses began moving into the area many of those same beautiful buildings were about to be demolished and it was gay business people who rescued and restored them, some buildings have even been awarded prizes by municipal authorities. *La Jornada Jalisco* interviewed one gay bar owner who spent four and half million pesos (roughly $450,000.00 Cdn) renovating and bringing his bar up to code, making sure that every rule and regulation of every possible municipal body was met. And now he is being asked to relocate?

I spoke with another bar owner, who although he has been very open and vocal in his objections to the tactics of the municipal government, asked to remain anonymous for fear of possible reprisals. I asked "Luis" why this was happening, and why now?

"Throughout the years the city has become quite friendly towards gays but there is a very conservative Catholic group that has always resented that fact and now they happen to be in political power." Luis is referring to the Partido Acción Nacional, PAN. According to the Wikipedia, PAN is a "right of center party, member of the Christian Democracy." The current mayor of Guadalajara, Alfonso Peterson Farah, is a member of this socially conservative group and he doesn't like the idea of gay bars and businesses operating only eight blocks from the Cathedral.

The most important element is the fact that the Pan American Games are to take place in 2011 in Guadalajara and are expected to bring a flood of tourists...and their money! Luis says the owners of gay bars and businesses have been told that city hall does "not want visitors from all over the world to get the idea that Guadalajara is full of homosexuals."

I asked Luis how Mexicans feel, in general, about queer people. "Probably in the northern part of the country it is quite common that men have sex with men without damaging their own perception of being straight. In the centre of the country (where Guadalajara is located) you will find the greater gay population and certain acceptance of gay people as long as they do not act or look gay. Attitudes towards gay people in Mexico has a very interesting two way road, in one hand it is a macho homophobic oriented society, but on the other hand even in the smallest town you will find gay people and in general terms they are accepted. Guadalajara" says Luis, "for a reason that I cannot yet explain, has always been known as the gayest city of all, with the highest number of gay people in the country. At the same time it is known as the land of machos, tequila, mariachi and football (soccer)." He continues with a laugh, "Probably the tequila does it."

The pressures being brought to bear on gay businesses are various: Bars are no longer allowed to stay open to 5 AM as they were previously. Bars that until 2007 had a capacity for 600 customers now are restricted to 350, a decision of the new inspectors. The police drive by gay bars more often, there are more frequent inspections by various municipal offices and no new licenses are granted to gay businesses. None of these restrictions apply to straight businesses operating in the same area. As Luis describes it they are trying to "asphyxiate us economically so that we will move out of the area."

Far from denying these actions, bureaucrat Parra points his finger at gay bars saying they encourage immorality and patrons often go shirtless or wear scanty clothing. He views the relocation of these businesses as justifiable and is quoted in La Jornada Jalisco as saying "it is necessary to place the interests of the community over personal business interests." (Translation mine.) Clearly he does not view queer people as members of the community and feels they should be willing to sacrifice themselves for what he perceives as the greater good.

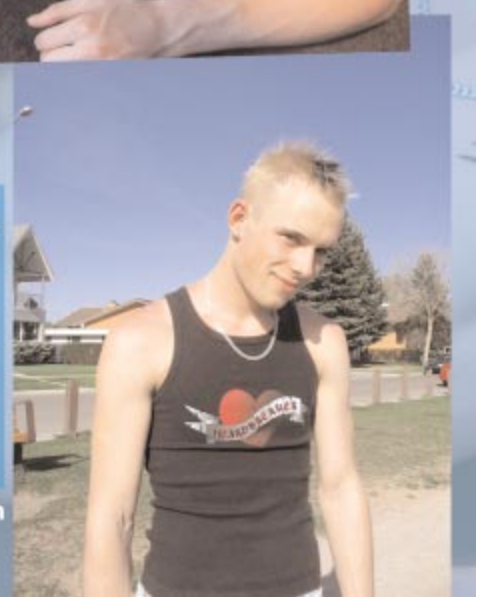
The tourism department actively promotes Guadalajara to American and Canadian visitors and even suggests Guadalajara as a perfect retirement place. My requests to them for information regarding the pressures on gay businesses in the Centro Histórico have not been answered.

Representatives of the gay businesses have lodged a complaint with the National Commission for the Prevention and Eradication of Discrimination in Mexico City and with the State Human Rights Commission. Before Canada joins in the celebration of sportsmanship, glory and athletic competition of the Pan Am Games, we had better find out what the cost will be to others. ▼

Ralph Higgins is a writer, columnist and book/movie reviewer living in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia. Photos by Leigh James Brown.

CHRIS

don't YOU wish?



Soon to be 21 years old, this native Calgarian enjoys football, biking and rollerblading. Chris is a bartender at Twisted Element

Photos by: Perry Mah

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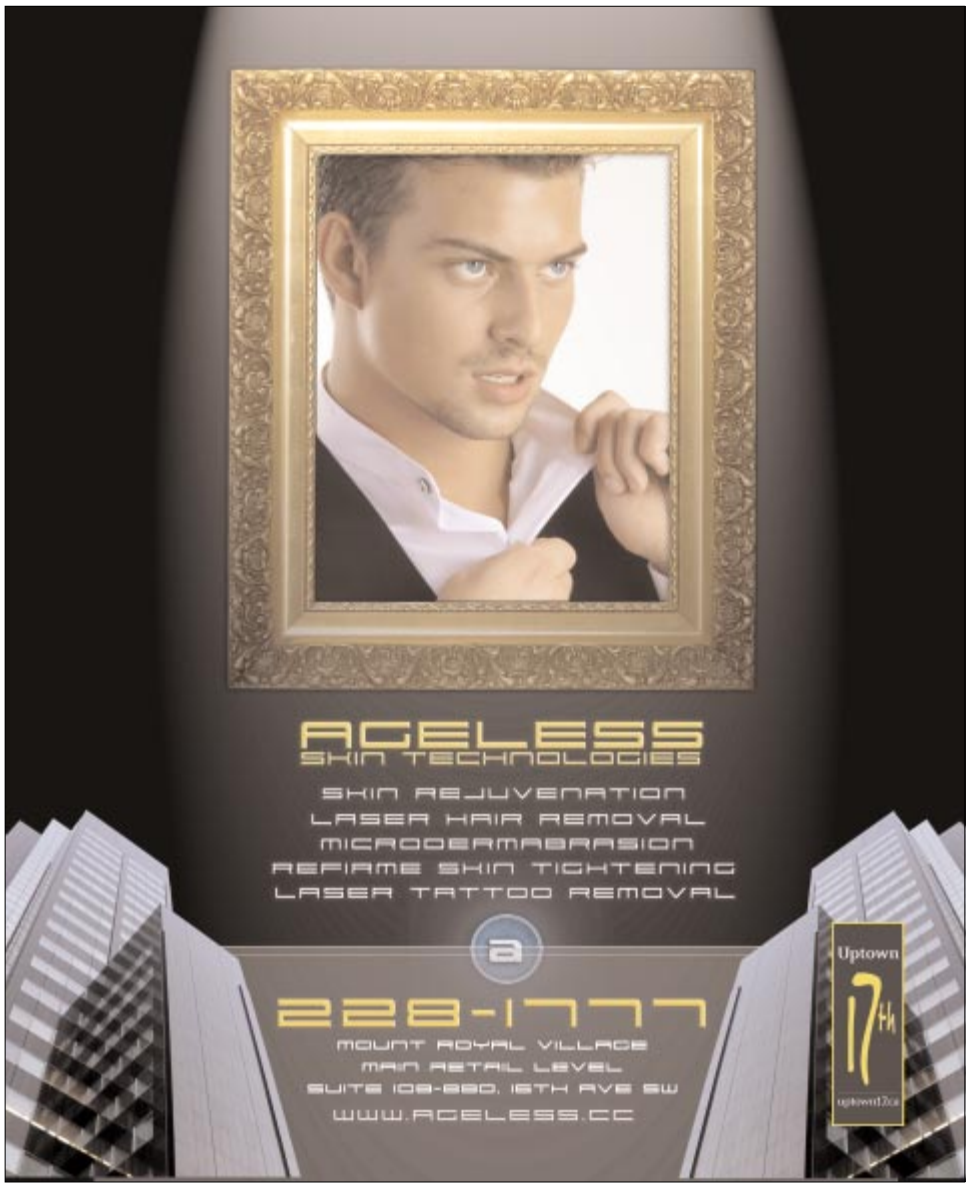
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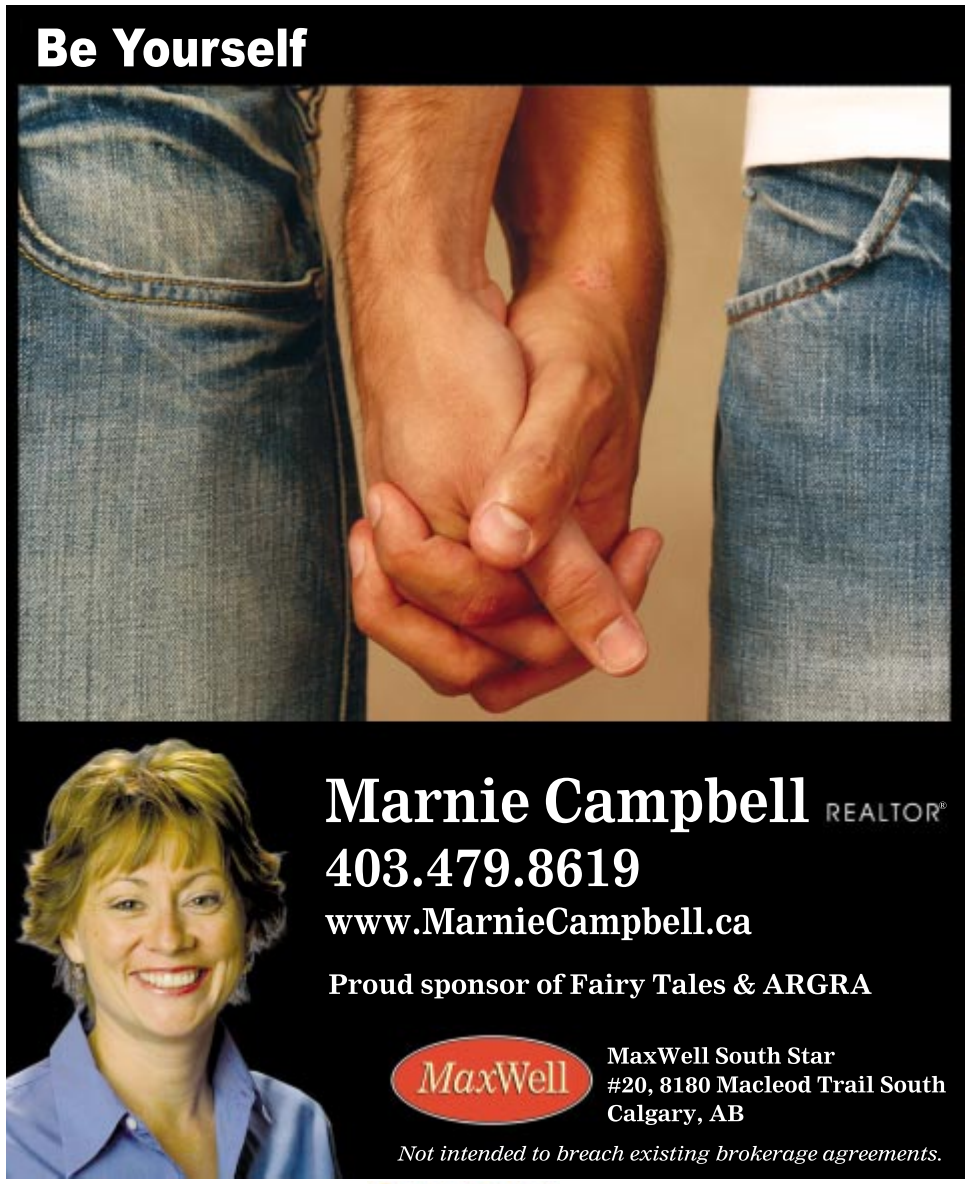
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One Yellow Rabbit goes silver

From gay rap opera to lesbian weddings, to Ronnie Burkett in fishnet stockings and a corset, One Yellow Rabbit may very well be the gayest straight theatre you'll ever see

By Tonya Zelinsky

The first time I walked through the doors of One Yellow Rabbit Performance Theatre, I felt like I was stepping into another world. As my eyes adjusted to the glare of the office's fluorescent lights bouncing off of its canary yellow walls, I suddenly felt the hairs on my arms stand up and there was a tingle down my spine.

The energy was undeniable.

Born from the roots of self-expression and a desire to be heard, One Yellow Rabbit is nothing short of unusual and always fantastic in its desire to create anything from the outrageous to controversial to scandalous—and always thought provoking.

Founded in 1982 by actor Michael Green and playwright Blake Brooker, this ensemble-based company of misfits has left an indelible mark on Calgarians and the world at large. It began as a small theatre troupe hoping to share its thoughts, perspectives and opinions with Calgarians. Today, as it approaches its Twenty-Fifth Silver Anniversary this June (with not a grey hair to be seen), the company has become one of Canada's most well-respected and recognized theatre companies; known for its original, performance creation theatre and its open mind.

Never in a million years did Green think he'd be celebrating OYR's twenty-fifth anniversary.

"I don't think we ever thought about it," reminisces Green. "It was always more of an abstract thing. If you'd have asked us years ago, we probably would have looked at the practicality of (creating a theatre company) and said it was next to impossible."

Former Calgary Herald theatre critic and author of *Wild Theatre: The History of One Yellow Rabbit*, Martin Morrow, laughs when he thinks back to OYR's early days.

"I found it interesting because they weren't all theatre geeks, they came from these different backgrounds. They all wanted to express themselves in some way and for some reason or other they ended up expressing themselves through a theatre company… I wasn't too sure what they were trying to do and I don't think they were too sure, either. They were sort of finding their voice and finding their style."

Ronnie Burkett was a member of that scene, hanging with the Rabbits in the early 80s when they were nothing more than a bunch of hip, young adults looking to create something really cool. Burkett was the perfect guy to join this tiny club of misfits. Back then he was an aspiring puppeteer performing kids shows on a stage he actually wore around his body. Today he is one of Canada's premiere puppeteers known for his original theatrical plays for adults.

It was without a second thought that Green, Brooker, and OYR associate artist Denise Clarke welcomed him into their little family with open arms and a pat on the ass. It wasn't long before Burkett and his puppets joined the rest of the ensemble on stage, and even shared a house with Brooker and Clarke (who were married at the time).

Denise Clarke from Serpent Hills

He even donned a pair of fishnet stockings and became the first incarnation of Ilsa in OYR's famous production of *Ilsa, Queen of the Nazi Love Camp*.

"I don't think gay people want to go to gay theatre," says Burkett. "I think gay people were drawn to One Yellow Rabbit just because the Rabbits always celebrate the perspectives of other outsiders, misfits, disenfranchised."

One of Burkett's favourite memories was when he was performing the second run of *Daisy* in the Secret Theatre, which later expanded to become OYR's Big Secret Theatre. The show had gotten so popular people would crowd into the theatre and sit on the floor in front of Burkett's stage.

"I always remember the couple of times a gay Calgary trucker and his boyfriend would come and they would sit in the front row on the floor and they would just cuddle in front of everyone else. How great a vision of Calgary is that; Two Calgary truck drivers cuddling in front of a puppet show for adults?"

Since then OYR has established itself as a "theatre of others" says Burkett, welcoming people of all shapes, sizes, gender and sexuality through its doors.

"We've joked over the years about One Yellow Rabbit being the queerest straight company in Canada," says Green. Being a "gay theatre" wasn't necessarily Green's and Brooker's mandates when they founded the company, but in some ways it has evolved as such thanks to the many gay-themed shows its hosted over the years.

In fact, one of its first performers at the High Performance Rodeo, the company's annual festival of the arts, was writer, director, actor and drag queen extraordinaire, Sky Gilbert. In the process of founding Toronto's Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, one of the largest, most-established gay theatres in the world, Gilbert just happened to be in Calgary when Green asked him if he'd perform. Gilbert read from a new play to a full house of twenty-five people.

"You'd be hard-pressed to find a more vital expression of queer," says Green. "We try, with the festival, to present to Calgarians a complete palate of different forms of entertainment…to entertain as broad a community as possible, including queer culture."

Looks like Gilbert set the bar for things to come. In the following years OYR has produced twenty-two High Performance Rodeos, each featuring performances by members of North America's gay community. During the 2007 High Performance Rodeo it played host to Annie Sprinkle's *Yellow Wedding No. 3* in which Sprinkle married longtime partner Elizabeth Stephens during a live performance at the Big Secret Theatre.

"That was one of the high points for me," says Green. "That was certainly the crowning jewel in One Yellow Rabbit's queer history."

In 2008 it presented Chris Craddock and Nathan Cuckow's *BASH'd*, which later won a GLAAD Award for New York Theatre off-off-broadway.

While Morrow readily admits he was hard on the Rabbits when they first hopped onto Calgary's arts scene, he can't imagine Canadian theatre without them. In fact, he often touts OYR as an "incredible source of inspiration" for aspiring artists through its original productions and programs like the Summer Lab Intensive school every summer.

"The longevity of this company is kind of remarkable because they have weathered those personal travails and yet they continue to work together," says Morrow.

"My favourite word (to describe OYR) would be the one Blake Brooker used when I was interviewing him. He always wanted the company to be 'undeniable'. It's not something you can set aside or ignore or overlook.

"There was a time when they were tucked away into the armpit of the arts centre. You could very well forget them but that was their credo; they wanted to be undeniable and certainly they are now."

One Yellow Rabbit celebrates its twenty-fifth anniversary on June 12 at the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium with the One Yellow Rabbit Silver Jubilee. Tickets are $25 and are available at Ticketmaster. ▼

Tonya Zelinsky is the society columnist for and regular contributor to the Calgary Herald. She also contributes to various publications around the city and Canwest News Service. In November 2007 she joined the OYR team as the marketing manager and publicist.

Photo courtesy of One Yellow Rabbit.

Little Sister's 25th

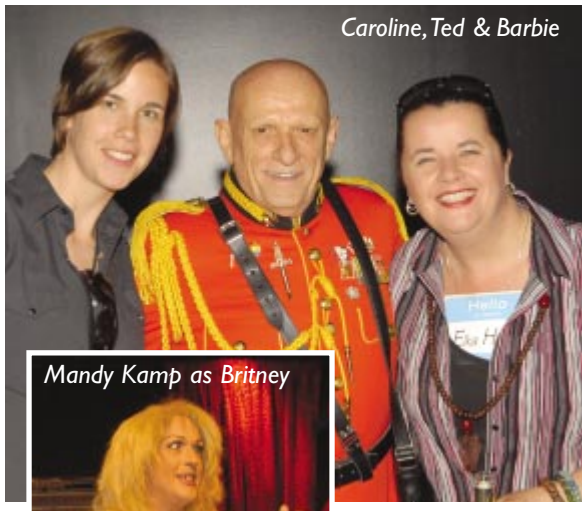
May 4 at Little Sister's Bookstore

Owners Bruce, Jim Deva & Manager Janine Fuller

Kirk & Jim Deva

Barb Snelgrove Birthday

May 18 at Majestic


Caroline, Ted & Barbie

Mandy Kamp as Britney

Barbie

Jamie Lee, Barbie & Laura

Fit for a Queen

May 1 at River Rock Casino

Vivan Von Brokenhymen

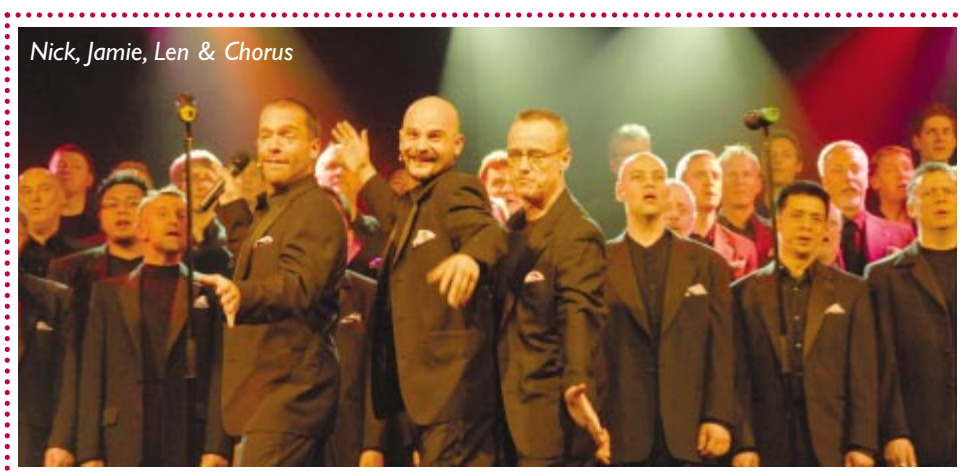
Kiki

Kristina Cash

Connie Smudge, Iona Whipp & Vivian Von Brokenhymen

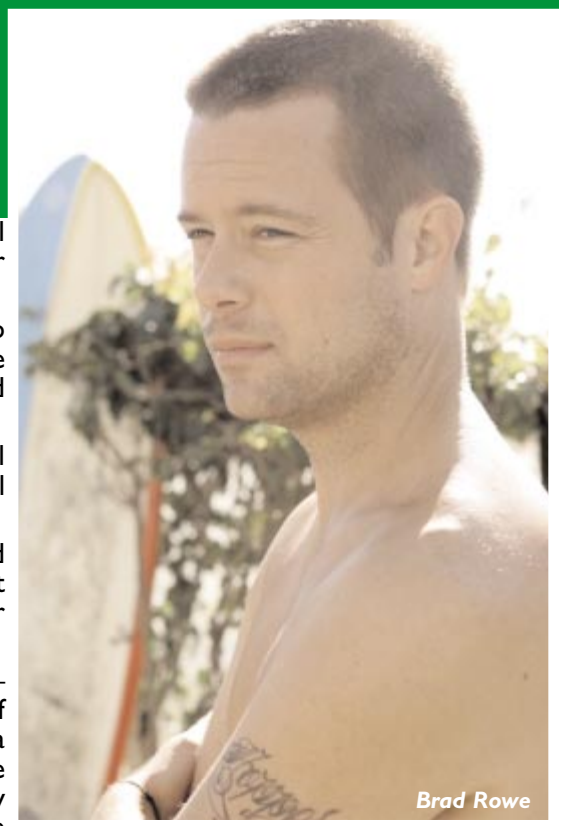
Vancouver Men's Chorus

May 3 at Commodore Ballroom


Nick, Jamie, Len & Chorus

Planning an event in Vancouver? Contact Barry at 604.685.1377 and he'll see about covering it in Out & About. Photos by: Barry Piersdorff

The Greenroom with Charlie David


Brad Rowe

Crossover film. What does that phrase mean? Well, in the world of independent producers of GLBT cinema it is quickly becoming a new catch phrase, the Holy Grail of having a movie with a gay storyline cross the proverbial Berlin Wall into the hearts of straight audiences. We saw it with *Brokeback Mountain*, *TransAmerica,* and to a degree in *Capote* a few years back, when the biggest awards night in Hollywood was deemed the Gay Oscars. This year, *Shelter* has opened to critical praise. The film follows the touching tale of two surfers who fall in love. Trevor Wright stars as Zach, the young surfer who must choose among family, his art and a surprising new love found in his best friend's older brother Shaun, played by Brad Rowe (*Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss*). I caught up with Brad after the Los Angeles premiere and started doing what I do best – asking questions.

Outlooks: What attracted you to the script and the role of Shaun?

Rowe: The script through Shaun's eyes told the story of a struggling artist who is inspired when he meets an important old friend. I loved that old friends could reinvent their relationship at a later point in their lives.

Outlooks: Are you a beach bum surfer in your real life?

Rowe: Having grown up land locked in Wisconsin, I have surfed a few times and really enjoyed it, but I would in no way classify myself as a 'surfer'.

Outlooks: What do you feel differentiates *Shelter* from other GLBT films?

Rowe: I think we could drop the GLBT reference and still have a great movie to which a broad audience can relate.

Outlooks: What is the overall message you hope audiences will leave with after seeing the film?

Rowe: Family is a loving, hard working support system, not bound by definition of sexuality or otherwise. Period.

Outlooks: Your character—Shaun—is a screenwriter. One of my favorite scenes is with you in a robe pacing and acting out a scene you're preparing to write. How much of that was actually on the page or was it improvised?

Rowe: That was entirely improvised. I thank Jonah for the enormous amount of creative freedom he afforded all of us.

Outlooks: Reviewers have been championing the film as the next *Brokeback Mountain*. Would you agree with that comparison?

Rowe: It's a kind comparison for sure. I think it's *Brokeback* without the heartache at the end.

Outlooks: What was your experience working with first time writer/director Jonah Markowitz?

Rowe: He's an amazing director and friend. Very few first-time feature directors have the confidence to communicate their ideas clearly, then step back and let the actor do their thing.

Outlooks: How did you work on developing a connection with your love interest Zach, played by Trevor Wright?

Rowe: It wasn't work. Trevor is easily one of the nicest, most open actors I've ever worked with.

Outlooks: You've stepped into the world of producing and writing—how important do you think it is for actors to create their own opportunities?

Rowe: I think it's important in life to participate in capitalizing on opportunities that are out there. Writing and producing are two areas that I really enjoy and would like to continue doing for a long time.

Outlooks: Tell me about your upcoming feature, *For Better or For Worse*.

Rowe: This was from a story that I wrote with two of my creative partners. We set out to make a movie that would allow actors to have a big hand in creating their characters, story arcs and dialog from before the script was even written. We wanted to create a new template and timetable for shooting movies. This concept appealed to a lot of actors and we've really attracted a killer cast along the way. We will be shooting in late June.

For more information please visit: **heretv.com/sheltermovie** ▼

Charlie David is an actor and co-host of Bump! on OUTtv.

Thibault and Wouters

Actualités

Droits et dignes : Deux retraités veulent la paix

Backlash in the Burbs

By David King

When Roger Thibault and Theo Wouters became the first gay couple in Québec (and one of the first in Canada) to marry, the last thing they expected was a modern-day witch-hunt. On public display six years later—the couple has even become the subject of an opera and an upcoming book—they now face a whole new battle in their Pointe-Claire, Québec suburb—their marriage merely the beginning of a terrifying new form of 'Neighbourhood Watch'.

"The feeling the whole neighbourhood is suddenly against you is a bad feeling," says Wouters. "We don't walk around except to walk the dog, we don't show our faces, and as long as we stay in our backyard, we have few troubles. In front of our house, it never fails that we're harassed in some way."

Since the 2001 March on Pointe-Claire by a huge crowd of queer-positive supporters (and an unsupportive Pointe-Claire Mayor sitting on the sidelines), clearly the couple's vows did not go unnoticed. When a nearby youth began repeatedly harassing Thibault and Wouters in 2003, they eventually fired back with a $10,000 lawsuit in damages for the youth and his father. Part of a nearby Brethren congregation, the home-schooled youth was forced to write a letter of apology and attend anger management class. Initially, he justified his behaviour on the couple's reputation and visible rainbow flag; later, he and Pops stalled the $10,000 settlement by having it re-examined by the Human Rights Tribunal based on religious beliefs. When the latter failed, a judge raised the $10, 000 in damages to $34,000. An increase in hateful neighbours ensued, and the harassment only escalated—along with a whole new schedule of days in the courtroom.

"For us it was unacceptable to be harassed after twenty years without incident," says Wouters. "More people need to say this is unacceptable, [but] if they do, they should be prepared to be scrutinized by everybody along the way."

Until one visits the couple's house (their backyard garden is one of Québec's first backyard habitats certified by the Canadian Wildlife Federation), one might think Thibault and Wouters, aged 62 and 76, should simply pack it up after the barrage of homophobia they've faced: eggs, paintballs, firecrackers and beer cups repeatedly thrown at the house; a vandalized automobile and front garden; the daily chorus of "Queer!" coming from the passing school bus; even physical and verbal threats that have led to an attack on the couple along with an outright death threat on their doorstep.

"Every day I make a report," says the relenting Wouters. "Everyone knows where we live. It has to be recorded."

Somehow, the couple's newlywed "oasis" has gone from becoming a bizarre tourist attraction ("Look where the gay grooms live, honey!") to a game of Hatred Dartboard for Pointe-Claire residents, ages ten and up ("I'll kill you, you chocolate f**kers!"). To add salt to a wound, the couple now gets to watch the 'torch-wielding' villagers on TV after installing security cameras, in a daily program called "Flip Your Bird to the Camera" that gives reality TV a nightmarish new reality.

In a recent twist of events, two $36,000 settlements from the couple's most recent lawsuits has again been counter-sued in civil form, taking precedence over human rights law. Facing a $400,000 counter-lawsuit in an act clearly intended to be another stalling tactic until the case goes to court June 10, Wouters is confident the civil suit and its ludicrous, mysterious amount will result in yet another dismissal, bringing the whole thing back to the Human Rights Commission.

It only gets worse. Aside from continuing support from the owner of Montréal's Club Sky, local queer community support has more recently fizzled for a couple it initially courted to be Québec's gay marriage pioneers (a lesbian couple was also allegedly in the running). Now in a marriage that's been put to the test, it's somehow more important than ever for the couple's walls to talk, particularly after being approached by other suburbanites who've 'fessed up' about similar experiences but have been to afraid for their lives to come forward. This time, says Wouters, the battle is about enforcing hate crime legislation that's only recently been put in place.

"No one should have to pass through what we've passed through," affirms Wouters. "We were already caught in the middle of gay politics as the first gay couple to marry. I believe we became a little too popular, and as a result there has been no support from the gay community. At one time, we were in a limousine behind the mayor getting the most ovations in the Pride parade. It showed us, and others, how many lives were touched. Many people have now tried to diminish that. And we just don't have a choice."

As they wait out a new hearing, the couple has stopped having guests and dinner parties, along with visits to Montréal's Gay Village. Recognized by the Dutch Government with a forth-five-minute documentary about his life and artistic career, Wouters and Thibault recently landed a paid visit to Europe, though only Wouters was able to attend while Thibault safeguarded the house.

"We still don't accept that people harass us in this way," concludes Wouters, "and that gives us the strength to go on. In Holland this is unthinkable. Why should I tolerate it here? We have days, of course, where we think, shall we move? But we built a life here, for thirty-five years and renovated a house—to throw this away in a flash because of this? [Legislation against] hate crimes is in effect but not yet enforced. This legislation is so young, so new, people don't know what to do with it yet."

The couple's rainbow flag, its masthead never lowered despite police suggestion, has blown away on its own by an equally harsh wind. It's a tragic irony only matched by the chaos surrounding an undeniably strong marriage. Tried, tested and true (and a few therapists later), Wouters' sense of humour somehow remains—albeit by a thread.

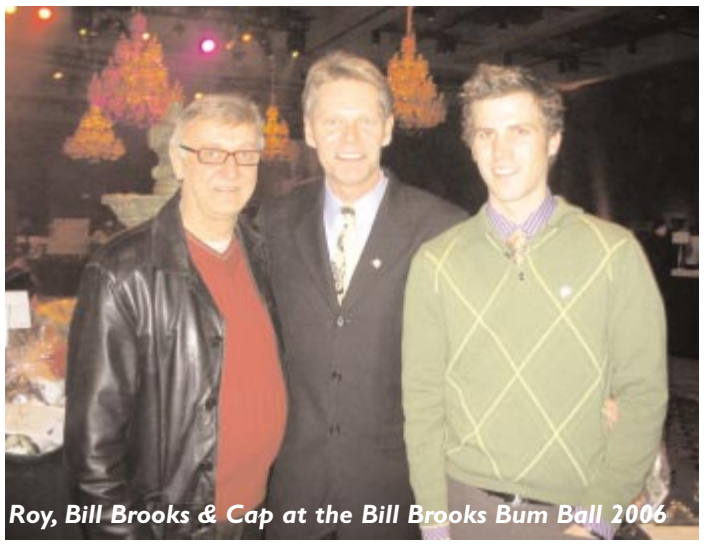
"We hope everything will fall silent after this last case finishes, to have another ten years of nice living," says Wouters. "We've become very close from this and are always together. That may be a good thing—lol." ▼

David King is founding Artistic Director of Montreal's OUT Productions (out.ca), a freelance arts, culture and travel writer, and Contributing Editor of 2B Magazine.

Publisher Heads South For la vida buena!

Roy & Colleen at Vancouver Pride circa 2001

Judy & Roy at the 2007 ARGRA Rodeo


Roy, Bill Brooks & Cap at the Bill Brooks Bum Ball 2006

Doug, Roy & Bill on the first press day 1997

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Safety Under the Rainbow

---

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LEN M.

Roy, Thank you for always being a true professional. You will be greatly missed.

Ken THE BACKLOT

Happy Retirement Roy,

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Six Days in New York: Death, Destruction, and Dastardly Deeds

By Michael Wright

Nothing beats a trip to New York City to catch up on great theatre. Here's a peek into one theatregoer's sublime six days…

Tuesday: *August: Osage County* by Tracy Letts

Amy (to Mom): "Eat the fish, bitch!"

Exasperated, overwrought, dysfunctional—words that barely begin to describe the Weston family in Tracy Lett's Pulitzer Prize-winning play *August: Osage County* currently running at the Imperial Theatre on Broadway. Daddy drinks, mommy pops pills. Daddy disappears, mommy staggers and smokes. Daughter #1 (Amy) arrives—intending to sort things out—with hubby (estranged, but don't tell mama) and twelve-year old dope-smoking daughter in tow. Daughter #2 (Ivy)—hasn't quite turned out the way mommy had hoped, and things only get worse. Daughter #3 (Karen) appears with her fiancé (he thrice-married, with an eye for much younger girls). Auntie Mattie Fae has a son and secret, and the sheriff has an eye for Amy. And why are all the windows covered? Where is Daddy? As all these stories—and more—unfold in this exquisitely written, archly funny yet poignant tale. Don't miss this one… you will be on the edge of your seat for the full three-hour and twenty-minute performance by Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre Company.

(If you're a collector of "memorable lines," *Osage County* will provide a bountiful harvest! Who hasn't felt the urge to sound off to the family, "I'm running things now!")

A rollicking start to a glorious week of theatre in New York.

Wednesday: *The American Dream*; *The Sandbox* by Edward Albee (matinee); and *The Adding Machine* by Elmer Rice (evening)"…a stand against the fiction that everything in this slipping land of ours is peachy-keen" (Edward Albee on *The American Dream*).

This eerily prescient sentiment describes the two Albee plays—*The American Dream*, and *The Sandbox*, onstage at the Cherry Lane theatre. In these days of serious economic decline—a result of the hyper-pursuit "American Dream" via the acquisition of stuff, these two plays remind us that Albee's observations, made over forty years ago and dismissed by many critics—are devastatingly true. Directed by Mr. Albee himself—a real treat. A brief, rewarding afternoon of theatre in the Village.

The Adding Machine by Elmer Rice—a musical adaptation by Joshua Schmidt. In keeping with the theme of the disappearance of what's real, or perhaps the appearance of a scary reality, this clever musical adaptation of Elmer Rice's 1923 play, *The Adding Machine*, never loses sight of it's purpose: to point out—as Wikepedia states: "the growing regimentation of man in the machine age through the life and death of the arid book-keeper, Mr. Zero." Sound familiar? Plus ça change…

This show is already being talked about as the best new musical of 2008. It is, incidentally, a prime example of the kind of "post-modern" musical that is emerging, with music that is edgy both in lyric and style. (See also any review on *Spring Awakening*).

Thursday: *The Scottish Play*

Sadly, if you're hearing about this performance for the first time, you'll have missed it. This production of *Macbeth*, featuring Patrick Stewart (yes… Captain Picard) as the King, and Kate Fleetwood as Lady M, enjoyed an all-too-brief run at the Gielgud Theatre in London, after winning the 2007 Chichester Festival. The production then moved to BAM in Brooklyn and finally, to the Lyceum Theatre on Broadway, but only until May 24.

Thanks to truly astounding sound and lighting, the opening of this play hurls the audience into the lives of these conniving characters. The entire ensemble cast is superb, bringing a lucid and eerily current interpretation of this tale of avarice and ambition. Having had the great good fortune to be scared out of my wits twice by this production—once in London, and once in New York—one can only hope for the possibility of an extended run somewhere.

Friday: *Cry Baby, the Musical Book* by Mark O'Donnell and Thomas Meehan, songs by David Javerbaum and Adam Schlesinger

Another John Waters film adapted for the stage. It's the early 1950s—a time of polio vaccinations (let's all sing about it, shall we?), big cars, and lies. A time when girl (from Upper-Crust family) meets boy (from Wrong Side of the Tracks). And a grandmother with a secret (there seems to be a thread here this season)—and a confession—and redemption. Just as it was all supposed to be in the 50s—it all turns out for the best. But it's all told with John Waters' characteristic camp. Satirical storytelling with that 50's beat captured in the songs of Javerbaum and Schlesinger. (Note: you might want to check out YouTube for clips of the film with a very young Johnny Depp as the original Cry Baby.)

Saturday: *Gypsy* by Laurents/Styne/Sondheim

Patti Lupone gives a powerhouse performance in the role of Rose, the Biggest

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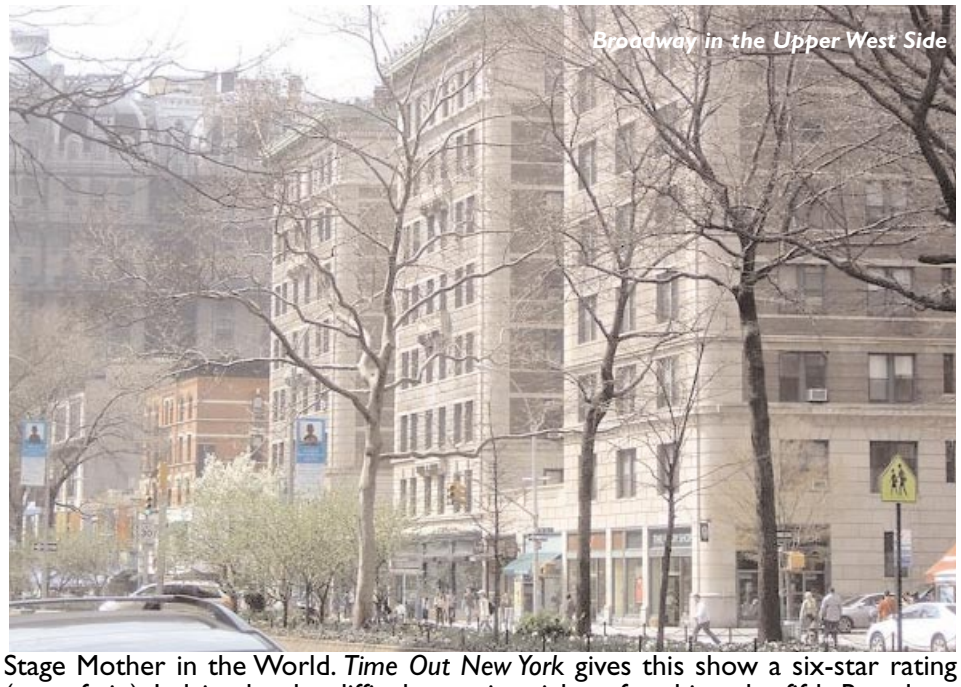


Stage Mother in the World. *Time Out New York* gives this show a six-star rating (out of six). Judging by the difficulty getting tickets for this—the fifth Broadway production of the musical—there are thousands who would agree. Ethel Merman would be proud.

Sunday: The Harlem Gospel Choir

And now for a complete change of pace…

Billed as the most famous gospel choir in America, the Harlem Gospel Choir gets the audience in the Gospel (and blues and jazz) Groove at the regular Sunday Brunch performance at the B.B. King Blues Club and Grill on 42nd Street. Choir membership is drawn from the best singers and musicians from various black churches in Harlem. In addition to many tours throughout the world, the choir recently performed at the Concert of Hope for Pope Benedict XVI at Yankee Stadium. Church was never like this back home.

Of course, it's always a case of "so much to see, so little time" when it comes to theatre (and just about everything else) in New York. Here are a few of the currently running shows that you might consider:

Spring Awakening—a new, dark musical based on Frank Wedekind's play written in 1981. To quote the website: "It is a story of uncontrollable emotions and undeniable passions, of first love and lasting regrets. But most remarkable, it is a musical that answers the questions teenagers have been asking forever."

Avenue Q—naughty Sesame Street-style puppets sing and dance their way into our hearts.

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof—an all black cast, including the velvet-voiced James Earl Jones

Sunday in the Park with George—at Studio 54, with sets using the latest technology to reportedly amazing effect

Xanadu—back to the '80s with surprisingly good, campy fun—claimed to be the "biggest surprise hit in Broadway history". Well, Broadway promoters have never been known for their skill at understatement.

Spamalot—it's Monty Python, albeit watered down for general audiences. Still, it's "I'm not dead yet" fun.

Wicked—only if you absolutely must. It's a show that suffers the burden of a great (unrealized, in my opinion) potential. But apparently the millions of others who've seen it would disagree. And don't forget the choices Off-Broadway and Off-Off Broadway.

A few travel tips:

Best Advice: upon arrival in New York, buy a copy of the ever-comprehensive Time Out New York magazine for an overdose of people, places and things to do in the "City that Never Sleeps".

Speaking of sleeping, consider getting out of the craziness that is Midtown when choosing a hotel. Having stayed in several locations around Times Square (which seems to get busier with every visit to New York), this time I opted for the more residential Upper West Side. It's an area of New York that, while still bustling, has a homey feel to it. In fact, one must become adept at dodging the ubiquitous baby strollers that seem to be on every block. There are hundreds of restaurants in the area, and they're accessible (many open twenty-four hours) and affordable. There are several very nice hotels (On the Ave—which boasts a guest patio on the 16th floor, or the Belleclaire—both on 77 St, on either side of Broadway) and some bargains to be had as well, if you don't mind a room with a shared bath (Imperial Court). Prices range upwards from $200 plus tax per night. New York hotels are not cheap, neither are the rooms large. If you can walk around both sides of the bed, you've scored a larger room!

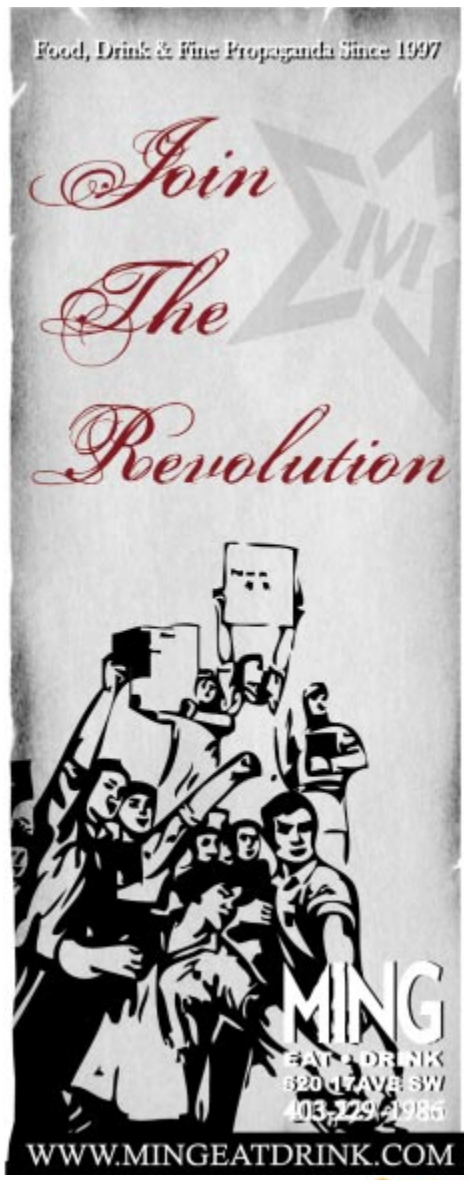
The Village, Chelsea, SoHo and all areas south, are a short subway ride from the Upper West Side. The Theatre District is a twenty-minute walk. If Lincoln Centre is your destination, it's practically on your doorstep if you're in the UWS, and Broadway becomes a beautiful avenue, with the glaring neon replaced by a tree-lined boulevard that divides the street.

The Circle Line boat tour around the island is a great idea. If it's your first trip to the city, this cruise around the island of Manhattan will give you an idea of the magnificence of the place at which you've arrived. It will also orient you to where things are and to learn to recognize landmarks to help you navigate the city. The Circle Line tours vary in length, so you can choose one that will fit your schedule.

The Top of the Rock (the Observation level of the NBC building, Rockefeller Centre) is my pick for a panoramic view of the city. Closer to the ground (67th floor) than the observation decks of the Empire State Building, you get great views of Manhattan and surrounding area without feeling disconnected from it.

New York is a city that has a rich history and a mind-boggling present! You won't see it all in one trip, so don't even try. You can always look forward to your return trip to this wonderful town. ▼

Michael Wright dabbles in photography, writing and editing. He currently travels from Calgary.



Host Mathieu Chantelois

COVERguy:

Bonjour Montréal

By Christopher DiRaddo

After three wildly popular seasons, OUTtv announces the return of its hot male model search, COVERguy.

New this year: Host Mathieu Chantelois and his team of manhunters invite you chez lui, to Montréal, where this year's search for the next COVERguy will take place. After judging the auditions (taking place July 5 and 6), a jury composed of fashion experts will select the twenty-four finalists. These finalists will then spend the summer parading before the judges and cameras to prove but one thing: that they have what it takes to land a contract with the prestigious Quebec underwear company 3G Actualwear. 3G is manufactured by Gregg Homme who have been producing some very hot men's lingerie since 1987.

This year for the first time, the winner will be invited to have a guest appearance on *The Lair*, a new TV series, from US specialty channel Here Tv. It's about a private gay club run by vampires, who use the club as a source for attractive young men to feed from. Stay tuned, as one of these attractive young men might just be the winner of COVERguy!

And if that's not enough exposure, our 2008 COVERguy will grace the cover of several magazines—including *Outlooks*, who has been associated with the hit show since the beginning.

"We have really appreciated *Outlooks*' support to spread the word across Canada," says the show's creator Larry Peloso. "We already have had several emails from very sexy guys in Calgary who are planning to make the trip east. We're hoping to "go west" next year if all goes well in Montréal."

Originally from Montréal, Mathieu Chantelois is overjoyed to be returning to his hometown. "All over Canada we hear that the most beautiful men in the country can be found in Québec. I hope that this edition will prove that."

"Montréal men also claim to be the sexiest and we have a surprise in store" says show creator Larry Peloso. "It's one thing to have the body and have the look, but this year we have a whole new challenge to see who really has what it takes!"

Produced by Giant Productions and broadcast on OUTtv in Canada (as well as in Australia, Europe and the HERE! network in the United States), COVERguy is a competition for all men regardless of sexual orientation. Chantelois applauds the interest that heterosexual men give to this uniquely gay show: "We've gone beyond the ghetto," he says. "Of the twenty-eight finalists last year, twenty of them were straight. COVERguy, above all, is about having fun!"

Aspiring models are invited, as of now, to send in their photos and contact information through **coverguy.tv** in order to secure an audition.

Recording this summer, the fourth season of COVERguy will be broadcast all over Canada on OUTtv this fall. The winner will be announced in November 2008. The manhunt is on. ▼

Christopher DiRaddo is an entertainment journalist in Montréal. He can't wait to interview the next COVERguy.

CALGARY OUTLINK (Formerly GLCSA) is looking for a

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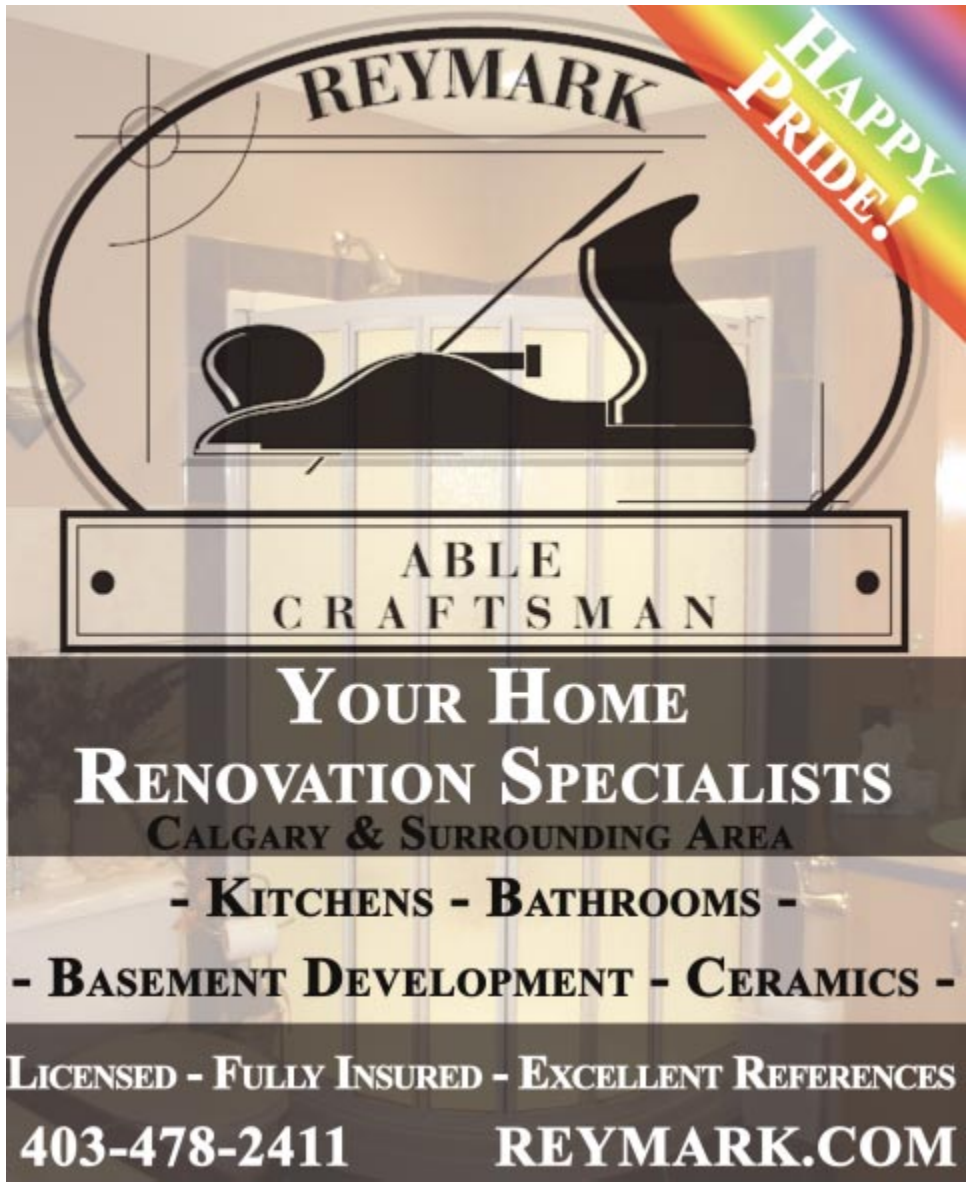
One Year Term



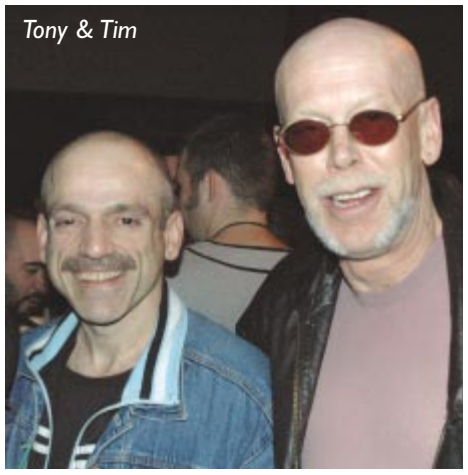
Beef

May 3 at Boots

Scott

Aaron

Bruce & Myron

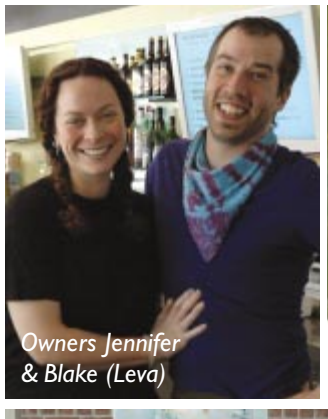

Tony & Tim

Clint & Wilf

Planning an event in Edmonton? Contact jackson@jacksonphotografix.com and he'll see about covering it in Out & About. Photos by: jacksonphotografix.com

Dining Out for Life

April 24 at various venues


Owners Jennifer & Blake (Leva)

Owner Henry Song (Four Rooms)

Josh (Blue Plate Diner)

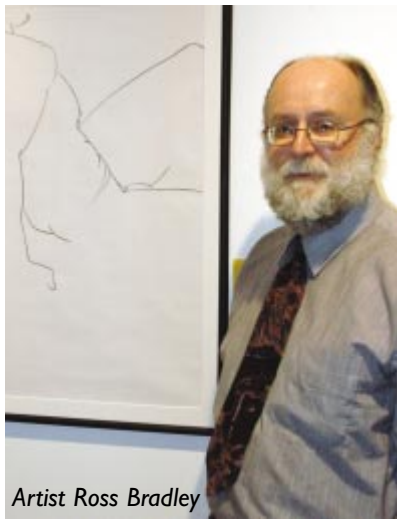
The Board of Edmonton's Vocal Minority (Blue Plate Diner)

Richard, Jim & Bart (Parkallen Restaurant)

Doctors & Derrieres Art Auction

May 8 at Latitude 53

Gerrit, Gabriel and Tony


Artist Ross Bradley

Artist Edmund Haakonson

OUTLOOKS FEATURE ACCOMMODATIONS

Inn at Laurel Point, Victoria B.C.

As the busy summer tourism season approaches, the Inn at Laurel Point in Victoria, B.C. is looking forward to welcoming gay and lesbian travellers to their elegant and sophisticated resort. Victoria has long been a favourite Canadian destination during the summer months and it is the perfect place from which to explore all that Vancouver Island has to offer the discerning GLBT vacationer.

For the past couple of years, the Inn at Laurel Point has been making some changes and improvements to better serve their guests. The resort has long been recognised as an elegant and sophisticated inn, bordered by the waters of Victoria's spectacular Inner Harbour, in the heart of downtown Victoria. Located on a six-acre peninsula park, the one hundred and thirty-five renovated guest rooms feature private balconies and a host of amenities that you might expect from a world-class inn.

With the recent addition of Iron Chef and Gold Medalist Brad Horen as executive chef, you can be sure the cuisine will be excellent—in both restaurants and for room service. Chef Horen is well known in culinary circles for his roles as executive chef of Calgary's Catch Seafood Restaurant amongst other distinguished Canadian eateries and his mentorship role on the Food Network's *Next Great Chef*.

Guests of the Inn at Laurel Point can enjoy the many facilities including a full-service restaurant, seasonal oceanside dining, piano lounge with nightly entertainment, oceanside patio, Japanese garden, gift shop, indoor pool, Jacuzzi, complimentary high-speed Internet access, and twenty-four-hour room service—all to ensure a perfect vacation or business trip.

Now you can also enjoy the Inn Room Spa, a new service created and designed to pamper yourself without leaving your guest room. Just one phone call to the front desk and you can arrange for a relaxing massage—for singles or couples—reflexology, European rose body wrap, rejuvenation body polish, skeyndor facial, pedicures and manicures. Imagine… no taxis, no waiting rooms, and no inconvenience—just an enjoyable few hours in your own room. Surely this must be the perfect vacation treat to yourself!

The Inn at Laurel Point also welcomes Fido or Fluffy with open arms. These days it can be hard for pet owners to find accommodations where their alternative "family" members can travel with them. At the Inn at Laurel Point, your cat or dog is welcome to participate in your holiday plans. Your pets can enjoy the Fisherman's Wharf, Ogden Point, Beacon Hill Park and Dallas Road along with you as you both enjoy some exercise. The Inn will also arrange for a doggie bed, stainless steel dishes for meals, and delectable doggie treats. Additionally, appointments can be made for dog sitting, grooming or walking.

Luxury and comfort are the focus of your enjoyment at this resort. All guest rooms contain cozy down-filled duvets, plush bathrobes, complimentary in-room coffee and tea, hairdryers, free local, toll-free and calling card telephone services. There are several different sizes and styles of rooms to suit your vacation needs and budget.

The Inn at Laurel Point also houses eleven state-of-the-art meeting rooms (10,000 square feet) for up to 250 people. Professional conference and catering staff provide on-site expertise plus assistance with all planning aspects of your gatherings.

If you are looking for the perfect summer escape where you can enjoy oceanside walks, the mountain vistas, the renowned Old English charm of Victoria, and endless activities including afternoon tea, golf, or an eco-adventure, then the Inn at Laurel Point in Victoria, B. C. is the perfect place to visit. TOLL FREE 1 800 663 7667 or 250 386 8721
680 Montreal Street, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1Z8 **laurelpoint.com**
EMAIL: **reservations@laurelpoint.com**

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402 friends

Wanted: Active, decent man between 60-70 No: Fems, fats, smokers,drinkers, druggies, moochers, egoists, talkers, pet-owners. Must have: car, home, a "life" REPLY 0601

Andre seeks under 28 years old. I live near river and mountains. It is one hour from Montreal. Enjoy animals, travel. tranquility. I like looking at stars, moon, white snow and animals. Welcome to visit my paradise. 100 Des Lupins, STE Marguerite, Quebec, J0T 1L0. (450) 228-1635

Young 20 year old new to the gay scene looking for friends to help with coming out. I love movies, dining out and camping. Seeking people my own age with similar interests. Reply # 0402

African American recently moved to Calgary from States and looking for friends aged 20-40. I am 6'2", 28, 180lbs, athletic, professional, enjoy outdoor adventures in the mountains and am seeking similar person. Reply # 0403

Young college dude new to Alberta. I am studious but enjoy going out on the weekends for fun. I am 23, 5'10", 155lbs, enjoy swimming and hiking. Seeking guys my own age for friendship and possibly more. Reply # 0404

FRUSTRATED BY BDSM E-MAIL DREAMERS?

A letter takes more effort, respondents are more serious. Experienced Master, B/D interests, in Vancouver/Victoria area seriously into Master/slave scene, seeks slave aged 18-29 prepared to move from fantasy to reality. Suggest initial trial period (weekend or ?). Write with phone and/or postal address to Box 0899. No e-mail! Serious only

402 friends

Recently divorced and father of two I am seeking similar for friendship and fun.. I am 45 years old, physically fit and want to meet people my own age. Reply # 0405

Young GWM in Edmonton, hockey nut and into all sports, seeking other gay sports fans for friendship. I am 28, 6' and 165lbs with blond hair and blue eyes. Reply # 0406

Fit and healthy 57 year old want a good relationship with younger guy between 20 and 30 for fun times. Must able to travel and be an aggressive well hung top. Send stats and photo to Reply # 1002

I'm looking for a black or Arab male with good physique who enjoys working out and movies plus more. I'm mid-twenties, live in Vancouver and looking for someone in their thirties with stable life, job etc. Searching for friendship and possibly more Reply # 0102

Fit, attractive mid-forties GWM looking for younger guy in his twenties for fun and more. Must enjoy movies, dining out and travel. Seeking long term relationship with right young guy. Must live in Calgary and be a smoker. Reply # 0103

New in town and looking for new friends. I live in Saskatoon and am 25, 5'10", 150lbs, attractive GWM. I enjoy all kinds of activities and always have a fun time. Looking for similar friends. Reply # 0104

Young black male, 22, slim build and physicall fit looking to meet GWM between 20 and thirty years old. I need a workout buddy and someone who enjoys outdoor sports. I live in Toronto and want to meet new friends leading to long term relationship. Reply # 0105

Gay, white, male seeks younger Asian gay male for friendship and possible more. Must be interested in movies, books and travel. Preferably age 18 to 35 and physically fit. Send letter and photo to Reply # 1101

Looking for a friend in Edmonton who is a young gay male age 25 to 39 for fun times and possibly more. I am 35 and I enjoy theatre, outdoor activities and going to the gym. You should have similar interests. Reply # 1102

New to B.C. and looking to make new friends. I'm 65 years old, active and very fit. Seeking people my own age for social activities in Richmond. Reply # 1103

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6 Issues: SUBTRACT 15%		_____
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402 friends

Fit, slim, 40's GWM, looking for long-term relationship. Seeking similar age male who enjoys an active lifestyle and keeping fit. Reply #0502

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HOROSCOPE

June will bring a rush of retrograding "Outer" planets—Neptune, Uranus, Pluto and Jupiter— that cajole us to upend the landscape and (hopefully) bring about meaningful change. Will you plant as you go or just toss around some mud?

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20) Retrograding planets will set your June off to a rousing start. Not only can proud Rams reinvigorate their corporate ascent, they may decide to change their entire life path and try something entirely new. Don't jump into anything permanent now though. There is still too much going on that changes in the next few weeks. For now, stay loose and take a long lunch.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21) National Coming out month provides queer Bulls with opportunities to expand their base of operations worldwide. One small idea leads to another even greater one. Not only can you reach out and make your opinions known, your ideas will manage to seep into the group consciousness and move things your way. Will you go overboard in your zeal? Why the heck not?

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21) Pink Twins are usually glib, chatty and flirtatious. But now, it is wiser for you to weigh your words with golden charms to give them greater heft. National Coming Out month is a good time to consolidate your dreams and desires and focus on what you truly value. This cannot be done quickly or superficially... even though you would wish it to be so.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23) Relationships will undergo extensive change this June. Did I say "change"? Perhaps it is more like an upheaval. Blame it all on a plethora of retro planets that stir up your honey pot. Gay Crabs can go from the apple of someone's eye to the pit if they try to boss the course. To insure a happy outcome, try to give more than you get and give it all with a happy heart.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23) If you think that you can continue to glide along in your job by doing as little as possible, think again. Proud Lions love to delegate to their minions. But times are changing. June will be the time to demonstrate more of your initiative, enthusiasm and pluck (at least just enough to fool the powers-that-be). Do more than just show up. At the very least, offer to make the coffee.

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23) Let your imagination soar! Fun has a way of getting entirely out of hand this June. Queer Virgins discover various ways of getting into mischief and can gleefully squander their assets on wasteful tawdry times. This is bad? But who will pay the piper when the music stops and the bill comes due? Enjoy every libidinous opportunity but keep your dollars—and good sense.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23) There'll be more happening around the house than usual, especially if you are in the mood to spruce your nest. Adding some new decor, moving or adding (or subtracting) a roommate will fill your June with activity and stress. Proud Libras should study all possible outcomes before they take action. Or leave it to fate and see what is left on your doormat.

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22) It would be so easy for gay Scorps to while away the summer in time-wasting pursuits, but that would be a mistake. In fact, June can be a very productive time for you, should you decide to make an effort. The most effective use of your time will be in the research arena—using your smarts to strategize and reach the most receptive audience. Once found, cash in!

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22) It is time to calculate your net worth and find ways to increase it. Gay Archers are not usually obsessed with money but it would be a good thing to use at least part of June to plan a revised investment policy. Ask advice, create a sustainable budget and maybe even ask for a raise. Retirement should not be a lifetime away, although right now it feels like it.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20) Your entire persona is going to undergo a dramatic change this June. Not only are pink Caps chaffing to do something new and totally out of character, they are also primed for success. This is a potent combination that should not be deferred. The only risk is doing too much too fast without the right planning. Don't dissipate your best efforts. Think first, then act up.

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19) Is there something going on behind the scenes that will prove to be interesting and useful to you? I don't know, but if you don't sit back and listen to the background noise you will miss it. Aqueerians have a psychic moment or two through June. You can use it as a parlor trick or as a strategic advantage. Hmm, guess which one gets you what you really want?

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20) Friends will be ready willing and able to turn up the frantic fun this June. Guppies with a few good ideas will find themselves in the center of the party planning and the director of all the action. Don't sit back and wait for things to come to you. Get Out there and make your fun happen. Can things go too far and get out of hand? We can only hope so!

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Hot House Backroom Exclusive Videos Volume I

Featuring: Francesco D'Macho, C. J. Knight, Kent North, Jason Ridge, Jude Collin, Zack Randall, Matt Majors, Riley Scott, Criss Strokes

Running Time: 80 Minutes

If you haven't already discovered the Hot House Backroom Exclusive Video series then starting with Volume One you are in for a really big treat. The sexiest vignettes from Backroom, the Hot House website, are combined with steamy action by some of Hot House's most popular models in six sizzling scenes. From sunny poolside antics in Palm Springs to the seedy hook-ups in the back alleys of San Francisco, these men with the biggest man-meat on the planet will delight every fantasy.

Firstly, Jason Ridge and Francesco D'Macho are poolside under the blazing hot desert sun working up a sweat in sexy swimwear. Their erections are bursting out of their tight trunks and almost simultaneously they are both naked and ready for action. They demonstrate their versatility and the poolside lawn chair is barely sturdy enough to take the pounding it receives but these real men can take everything they give each other.

Next up is the twosome Kent North and Jude Collin in a seedy warehouse setting. Kent North executes a perfect reverse-cowboy ride and submits to Collin's huge manhood and an unrelenting hammering that would probably make a lesser man collapse on the floor from exhaustion.

In a perfect solo scene, Chriss Strokes admires himself in the mirror and reveals "The Punisher" which is the most amazing twelve inches to be found anywhere in the gay porn industry. It's easy to understand where his last name derives from when you realise the long strokes could really use three hands but somehow he makes do with the two he has available. This is the most sensual scene in this collection of superb erotica.

Jude Collin appears again and this time he is coupled with the younger, handsome Zach Randall who proves that youth can also mean experience as he deftly devours Jude's enormous erection. Then C. J. Knight performs a solo scene with some of the most gigantic dildos available for sale in San Francisco and proves that he can take whatever comes his way.

Finally the famous Matt Majors—renowned for the fattest meat in the business—discovers the squeaky-clean bottom-boy Riley Scott in a locker room and pushes Scott's talents to the fullest. Majors is unrelenting but Scott takes his punishment with a smile and obvious pleasure.

After you've experienced Volume One of this series, you will probably rush to order Volumes Two, Three and Four as each one is a masterpiece of hot action, great camera work and the best men in the industry strutting their amazing bodies.

RATING:
(OUT OF FIVE STARS)

MUSIC:	★★★★★
BODIES:	★★★★★½
ACTION:	★★★★★½
SETS:	★★★★★
STORY:	★★★

Winter Heat

From: AYOR Studios

Featuring: Andreas Mouskouri, Benjamin Bloom, Bolek Polanski, Jack Robbins, Joe Donovan, Lukas Pokorny, Rafael Bianchi, Thierry Aulin, Todd Rosset, Trevor Yates

Running Time: 140 minutes

Frolicking in the snow may be over for another year but this movie is worth the nostalgic look back at a winter past, or memories of the classic Falcon movie *The Other Side of Aspen* from thirty years ago. Ten young, lusty skiers provide an outdoor sports adventure movie with eight hardcore scenes from a ski weekend high up in the mountains. There's plenty of excitement for these skiers on the slopes, but their adrenaline is also running high in the quaint old chalet.

These athletic guys have so much fun in the snow that they try to get even closer when they are back indoors. Sometimes it's just buddies playing together, or sharing a room—plus each other, or simply a case of great chemistry between two testosterone-loaded studs. Then sometimes it's that special friend they just have to be with. Whatever the reason, these explosive, hot scenes at Otevreno in the Czech Republic are a great reminder of winter male bonding on the ski slopes—even if it's not in Aspen.

At the end of a long day several of the cast members get together for a game of pool wearing only their Ginch Gonch underwear. Naturally the balls on the table and pool cues are just a distraction for these talented players to get to know each other better. Inevitably, the underwear comes off—revealing major equipment ready for a serious workout. Bloom, Robbins and Mouskouri end up alone in the games room and discover a whole new game to play with each other.

At the end of a hard days' workout, Lukas Pokorny enjoys a relaxing long, hot shower and a solo performance. Whereas the rest of the group decide that an orgy is a perfect way to unwind and although it's totally oral pleasure, they all manage to release their tensions from the hard workout earlier in the day.

This extremely long movie with numerous scenes and extras on the DVD is well worth a little winter dejavu as summer begins!

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RATING:
(OUT OF FIVE STARS)

MUSIC:	★★★★
BODIES:	★★★★★
ACTION:	★★★★★½
SETS:	★★★★★
STORY:	★★★★

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